



The image shows the front cover of a book, likely a journal, with a light-colored, textured cloth binding. The cover is decorated with a wide, ornate border featuring a repeating diamond-shaped pattern. Inside this border is a large rectangular frame composed of multiple parallel lines. A smaller, tilted rectangular frame is superimposed over the center of the cover, containing the word "JOURNAL" in a bold, serif font. The spine of the book is visible on the left side, showing the same textured material and some wear. The corners of the book are reinforced with a dark material, possibly leather or a different type of cloth.

# JOURNAL

BIRD DEPT.  
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## Yacht "France"

At Lelippa Id. Havanah Harbour.

Dec 23 Light variable breeze, fine weather Bar 30.00  
7 AM. Mr Beck ashore for collecting.  
Crew variously employed and getting  
fire wood. 3/10 P.M. All on board again  
3/50 P.M. Hove up and proceeded out under  
sail. 4/20 P.M. Set course for the Foreland  
Epi Island. Fine weather and light  
Easterly breeze during the night.

Dec 24 Wind fell light about 4 A.M. and finally  
dropped altogether. 7/26 started Engine  
10/55 Anchored 1 mile South of Borumba  
5/15 - 5/55 Shifting up to Borumba  
with engine.

Anchored in 11 fms opposite Mr Reids house.  
Light variable airs, fine during night

Dec 25 Similar weather conditions to above Bar 30.02  
Christmas Day, so no work or  
collecting done.

Fine weather during the night

Dec 26 Light variable airs, very hot, fine Bar 30.00  
Sabbath day observed.

Fine weather during the night

Dec 27 Light variable airs, fine, Bar 30.02  
Sent boat ashore at daylight to give  
notice of our departure

6/10 A.M. Hove up & started off under sail  
7/5 ... started engine.

9/30 ... Arrived and anchored at Ringdove  
Bay in 5 fms. Mr Beck ashore collecting.  
Crew getting fresh water from the  
stream and various other work on board.  
Given liberty during afternoon to wash clothes.  
Fine weather during the night.

Vessel pumped dry daily as required

## Yacht "France"

Dec 28 5.40 A.M. Hove up and proceeded out with  
engine, which failed soon after vessel was  
headed out, set all sail and continued with  
light Ely breeze.

Wind freshened during forenoon and continued  
during afternoon 3 P.M. - 3/45 Hove to while  
Mr Beck went off with small boat to shoot.  
Wind fell light about 7 P.M. and finally fell calm.  
10 P.M. - 10/27 Used engine to Round Dip Pt.  
Wind light all night.

Dec 29 Fresh N.E. wind at 5 A.M. and stood N.E., tacked  
at 7 A.M. and steered for North Ambryn.  
Wind fell light again and started engine  
at 11 A.M.

11.50 A.M. Anchored at (~~Ringdove Bay~~) Rannon Ambrye  
Boat ashore with Mr Beck (~~and took in two~~  
~~loads of fresh water.~~ T.R.D.) very heavy surf.

Dec 30 Light variable wind, fine, Bar 30.08  
Surf on beach going down.

Mr Beck and Hicks ashore collecting  
Crew employed painting ship.

5.30 P.M. All on board again and hoisted  
boat. Fine during the night.

Dec 31. Similar weather conditions Bar 30.06  
Mr. Beck ashore taking photographs of natives.  
Hicks and Hill away for collecting.

5.0 P.M. All on board again, hoisted boat  
Fine weather during the night.

Jan 1 Light variable winds & fine cloudy weather Bar 30.10  
1927 New Years day, so no work carried out  
Crew allowed shore liberty.

Fine weather during the night

Jan 2 Similar weather continues Bar 30.08  
Sabbath day observed. Fine weather during night

Vessel pumped dry daily as required



## Yacht "France"

- 1927  
Jan. 3 4.45. Hove up & proceeded out from Rannon. 4/57 - 5/6 AM. Used engine. Light E by wind.  
8/7 AM. Started engine, down sails  
9/5 " " Arrived and anchored at Trucky Pt. Pentecost Island.  
Mr Beck & Hicks ashore collecting and crew getting fresh water from stream.
- Jan 4 Light variable wind, overcast, very hot, Bar. 29.98  
Mr Beck & Hicks ashore collecting.  
Crew filling up all tanks and getting fire wood.  
5 P.M. All on board again.  
6 P.M. Very heavy thunderstorm & lightning, continuous heavy rain till 9 P.M.  
Anchor watch kept.
- Jan 5 Light E by wind, overcast Bar. 29.96  
6.30 AM. Hove up and started engine at 6.54 AM.  
B.W. Hill, sailor, left the vessel before her departure to go to Mr Newman's plantation to work, his wages to date were transferred to George Inafiles to whom he owed money.  
8.10 Anchored off the Waterfall, 6 1/2 miles north of Trucky in 8 fms.  
Mr Beck & Hicks ashore collecting.  
Barometer falling from noon on, 29.88 at 4 P.M.  
All on board at 5.30 P.M., hoisted boat & in evening and left all ready for getting away.  
7 P.M. Thunder, lightning & heavy rain.  
9.30 " " Bar. 29.94. Weather looking better, rain all night till dawn.  
Anchor watch kept.  
Vessel pump dry daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

- Jan 6 Light variable air, Bar. 29.90  
Mr Beck, Hicks and one man ashore collecting.  
Crew bending new fore stay sail and variously.  
5.30 P.M. All on board again. Anchor watch kept.
- Jan 7 Similar weather to yesterday Bar 29.94  
Mr Beck, Hicks and one man ashore collecting  
Crew variously employed  
6.0 P.M. All on board again, hoisted boat  
Anchor watch kept.
- Jan 8 5.10 AM. Hove up and proceeded under sail towards Aoba. Light variable air  
6.0 P.M. Down main sail and hove to awaiting daylight. Fine weather during the night.
- Jan 9 Stood in to the land at dawn, steering for Big Rock. Engine for 1 hr 20 m  
8.50 AM. Arrived and anchored Bone Bay.  
Partly landed for collecting.  
Overcast and passing showers.  
Anchor watch kept.
- Jan 10 Light S E wind, overcast and cloudy. Bar 29.90  
Mr Beck and Hicks ashore collecting.  
5 P.M. All on board again, hoisted boat  
5.15 P.M. Hove up and got away under engine power till 5.34 P.M., then set all sail.  
Heavy rain at 10 P.M., so down mainsail and hove to. Wind variable.
- Jan 11 Stood in at dawn and entered Second Channel at 7.30 AM. Engine started at 10.52 AM.  
11.50 AM. Arrived and anchored at the Doctors  
Crew washing and painting the cabin  
Continual rain & showers Bar 29.92 (avg)
- Jan 12 Light variable wind, heavy showers. Bar 29.90  
J.M. Marsina arrived at 6 AM. and by her came Mr Drouner to join the France  
3.45 - 4.15 P.M. Shifting to Sourganville  
Anchor watch kept. Bar. 29.82 at 4 P.M.  
Vessel pumped dry daily as required.



## Yacht "France"

- Jan 13 Light N by breeze, heavy overcast sky, passing showers. Bar. 29.84 at 8 A.M.  
Mr Beck and Mr. Drowne ashore after noon collecting. Heavy showers at times all on board by 6 P.M. Bar. 29.81 at 4 P.M. Boats hoisted and anchor watch kept.
- Jan 14 Light N by wind, & cloudy sky Bar 29.85  
5.10 A.M. Hove up and proceeded out with engine.  
5.25 " " Stopped engine and all sail set. Breeze freshened later, passed Big Rock, Aoba, at 11.30 A.M. Started engine at 1/2 P.M. and at 1.30 P.M. anchored at Red Cliff, Aoba in 5 fms, boat ashore with party collecting.
- Jan 15 to 21<sup>st</sup> Vessel remained at Red Cliff during this time, parties going out collecting daily, with the exception of Sunday. Heavy rain at times, vessel rolling and pitching to the ground swell. Crew employed painting cabin and various. Anchor watch kept.
- Jan 21 4.5 P.M. Hove up and proceeded with engine.  
4.16 " " All sail set, stopped engine. Wind variable during night, passing showers.
- Jan 22 Close in to the land at daylight, stood on up the coast to find an anchorage.  
7.30 A.M. Used engine for 5 minutes to make Aurora Id anchorage at Cascade in 10 fms water. Mr Beck & Hicks ashore collecting.
- Jan 23 Light breeze (SE) fine weather Bar. 30.05  
Sabbath day observed.
- Jan 24 Moderate SE wind, fine weather.  
Boat away at 6.30 A.M. with party collecting. Crew employed filling fresh water tanks.  
6 P.M. All on board again, hoisted boat. Fine weather during the night.
- Vessel pumped dry daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

- Jan 25 5.30 A.M. Hove up and proceeded under sail.  
6.42 " " Started engine, wind light and variable.  
8.45 " " Arrived and anchored in a bay 10 miles north of the Cascade in 9 fms. Mr Beck & Hicks ashore collecting. Crew employed setting up jib stays.  
6 P.M. All on board again.
- Jan 26 Wind SE light; fine weather Bar 29.98  
Mr Beck & 3 of the crew ashore collecting. Remainder variously employed.  
All on board at 5 P.M.  
6 P.M. Hove up and proceeded under sail for the North end of the Island.
- Jan 27 1/25 A.M. Port of Aurora Id abeam, stood to, set co. N E  
Wind light, moderate ESE swell, fine & clear.  
Room Position Lat 14° 43' S Long 168° 18' E  
Wind fell calm and continued during night.
- Jan 28 Similar weather conditions continue.  
Mr Beck away with small boat shooting sea birds.  
Room Position. Lat 14° 28' S Long 168° 22' E  
Calm in afternoon, Mr Beck away shooting again.
- Jan 29 Light variable winds. Bar. 29.92  
Mr Beck away with small boat collecting.  
Room Position Lat 14° 30' S Long 168° 48' E  
Wind came away from NW and freshened.
- Jan 30 Squally with heavy rain early A.M.  
Hove to at 1 A.M.  
Made sail again at daylight and sighted Nitre Id on Tort Low, thick rain afterwards. Beating to best advantage towards the Island during the day.
- Jan 31 Strong NW wind and rough sea.  
Beating towards Island under reduced sail.  
Vessel making much water, pump kept going.



## Yacht "France"

Feb 1 Moderate N.W. gale and strong squalls with rain. Heavy sea, vessel plunging violently and shipping water.  
8 A.M. The bob stay and boom guy carried away in a heavy squall. Hove ship to under fore stay sail and double reefed mainsail. Heading N.W.  
6 P.M. Hove ship to S.S.W. and continued all night. Vessel making a lot of water.

Feb 2. Wind and sea moderating.  
All hands repairing head gear from daylight till 10 A.M., when we proceeded under all sail, beating towards the Island.

Feb 3 Moderate to light N.W. wind and sea  
7.40 A.M. Started the engine and steered for Island.  
12.15. Arrived and anchored at Mitre Id., in 12 fms water, Island bearing N.W.  
Boat away with Dr Rich collecting,  
3.30 Boat returned, unable to land for the heavy surf. Hove up and got away under all sail, wind light and variable. Freshened up at 8 P.M.

Feb 4 Thick rain and squally, reduced sail  
Wind N.W. and sea increasing, beating towards the Island.  
Hove to at sun down.

Feb 5 Made sail again at day light and continued beating to best advantage.  
Hove to at sun down. Raining all day.

Feb 6 Made sail at day light, heavy rain and squally. Beating all day.  
The starboard after backstay of main rigging carried away just before noon in a squall. Hove vessel to and repaired as best we could. Making water all the time and pumping.

## Yacht "France"

Feb 7 Observed Cherry Id at 3.30 A.M., to windward  
Lacked ship at 8 A.M. and made all sail  
10.40 started the engine.

11.52 Arrived and anchored at Cherry Id in 6 fms, highest part of Id bearing N.W.  
Heavy surf breaking on reef, impossible to land. The natives came off the ship swimming and brought yams etc in afternoon by the same method.

Heavy rain during the night, anchor watch kept and pump going.

Feb 8 Moderate N.W. wind at daylight and sea more moderate.

Sticks landed for collecting, & swimming ashore from boat. Returned at 11 A.M.

2.40 Hove up and proceeded under all sail towards Lucopia. Cloudy and squally.  
8.0 P.M. Down mainsail and outer jib

Feb 9 and set all sail again at 4 A.M. and at 7 A.M. found by observation that vessel had been set 20 miles to the East during night. Beating all day towards the Island.

Feb 10 Sky cleared at dawn and wind fell light. Noon Position  $12^{\circ} 39' S$   $168^{\circ} 36' E$   
Sighted the Island at 1 P.M. bearing N. N. E. Kept to windward of it all night.  
Fine weather during the night.

Feb 11 Stood in for the South end at day light and at 7.40 A.M. anchored in 15 fms at Lucopia Island, south east side.  
Sounded with boat action of vessel and found 25 fms, so gave 45 fms chain partly ashore collecting, returned at 6 P.M.  
Squally all night, anchor watch kept.  
Pump kept going almost continually.



## Yacht France

Feb 12 Fresh N.W. breeze and squally with showers. Boat away with collecting party at 8 A.M., remainder of crew employed repairing head gear and variously vessel shearing about and grinding at the cable, probably dragging it over the reef. 6 P.M. Hove up and started off under sail, but had to heave to as the Islanders who were on board refused to swim ashore and as there was only one canoe our own boat had to make two trips to the shore. Engine was used a short time. 9.50. Got away under all sail.

Thunder, lightning and heavy rain squalls. Feb 13 Sky clearing at daylight. Bar 29.95 Wind continually veering and backing. Confused sea, with big N.E. swell. Noon Position  $12^{\circ} 30' S$ ,  $168^{\circ} 6' E$ . Wind steady from N.W., sea more regular. Tacked to the northward at 6 P.M. Fine during the night.

Feb 14 Tacked to S.W. at 1 A.M. Light N.W. breeze, moderate sea. Fine Bar 30.03. Noon Position  $12^{\circ} 38' S$ ,  $167^{\circ} 36' E$ . Fine during the night.

Feb 15 Sighted Vanikoro at daylight. Light variable winds and smooth seas. 1 P.M. Started the engine. 6 P.M. Entered the reef. 4/36 " Arrived and anchored at Teou Bay.

Feb 16 Fine weather during the night. Bar 30.05. Started getting the repairs done. Obtained wire from the timber Co also repairs to chain plates and pump. Fine weather and light S.E. wind. Pumping nearly all the time when at sea. Making 6 inches a day in port.

## Yacht France.

Feb 17 Light breeze, fine weather Bar 30.07. Repairs to rigging, pump, and chain plates continues. Get water at same time when possible.

Feb 18 Similar weather conditions. Working away as yesterday also getting fine wood and water.

Feb 19 Light S.E. breeze, fine weather Bar 30.08. Rigging now finished and being set up. Carpenter making a wood hose pump as a stand-by. Not finished till after dark.

Feb 20 Light S.E. breeze and calm. Bar 30.10. At 11 A.M. we went forward and ordered the crew to heave up anchor and get the vessel under way, they refused to obey and stated that they had been working all the week and also for the previous three Sundays and required a rest. We agreed to go to sea at daylight. Fine weather throughout the night.

Feb 21 Hove up at 6.30 A.M. and as the wind was light, started engine at 7.0 A.M. Passed out of reef at 7.27 A.M., stopped engine, wind light N.E. Tacking towards Santa Cruz during the day, heavy rain showers in the night.

Feb 22 Sighted Santa Cruz at daylight, wind light and variable with heavy showers throughout the day. Lacking to best advantage towards the Island. Sky clearing at sunset and weather finer. Pumping a lot when vessel is pitching into head sea.



## Yacht "France"

- Feb 23 Wind NW and variable, frequent heavy showers, standing in for North end of Santa Cruz.  
3 P.M. Started the engine and at 3.25 P.M. arrived and anchored in a bay East of Cape Byron in 13 fms. Fine weather during the night.
- Feb 24 Wind from the Eastward light. Bar 30.10 Boat ashore with party collecting at 6.30 A.M. Crew variously employed 5 P.M. Boat returned, all on board. Very fine weather, wind Eastly & variable.
- Feb 25 Boat ashore at daylight for water and at 7.45 A.M. hove up and proceeded with engine till 8 A.M. 10.25 - 10.35 A.M. Engine used for entering and anchoring at Byron Bay. Boat ashore on arrival with party for collecting all on board by 6 P.M. and hoisted boat. Fine weather during the night.
- Feb 26 Light Variable wind and fine weather Boat away at 7 A.M. with party. 8 A.M. Bar 30.10 9-10 A.M. a very heavy rain shower. Crew employed painting and clearing up the hold etc. P.M. All on board again and hoisted boats.
- Feb 27 Heavy rain showers during the night Sabbath day observed. Fine weather all day and during night.
- Feb 28 Light variable wind, cloudy sky Party away collecting at 7 A.M. Very heavy rain storm from 9.30 A.M. to 1 P.M. Crew variously employed. All on board by 5 P.M. Hoisted boats. Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

- March 1 Fine weather During the night. Hove up at 6 A.M. Engine from 6.7 to 6.15 A.M. Light N'ly wind, standing over to Tinakula. Wind light and variable. Rain showers from 4 P.M. on, beating to windward to best advantage. Current taking us away from Island.
- March 2 Wind light and variable during early morning, about 6 miles off at daylight 7.14 to 8.30 Engine used to take us in; boat ashore with Mr. Beck & Doctor Drowne & then stood off the land and in again as required. Engine used for 40 mins throughout the day. Ticked up boat at 4.30 P.M. and stood off under fore sail & stay sail all night. Very heavy rain from 10 P.M.
- March 3 Heavy rain all morning, island visible at times, made all sail at 10 A.M. and passed to the southward of it at 1 P.M. Heavy showers, tacked ship to best advantage. Wind fell light and calm from 8 P.M., current taking us fast to SE. Midnight Santa Cruz about 7 miles off.
- March 4 Reef Is in sight at dawn. Vessel about 16 miles from Tinakula. Engine from 10.10 A.M. - 12.45 P.M. Boat away with collecting party and vessel stood off under all sail. Tacking ship as required during afternoon. Ticked up boat at 5.32 P.M. 5.45 South end of Tinakula abeam. After dark we observed the



## Yacht "France"

March 4 whole N.W. side of the island to  
(continued) be covered with red hot lava, running  
down the side of the mountain right  
to water level. This continued all  
night. Some slight explosions  
were heard when close to island.  
Volcanic ashes fell on deck.  
Wind light all night and vessel not  
making much headway owing to the  
current running to ESE.

March 5 Wind light from the Eastward Bar. 30.01 <sup>8 A.M.</sup>  
noon Tinakula bore N.E. & E 41 miles distant  
Similar weather conditions during afternoon  
and night.

March 6 Light E. & S. breeze, passing showers Bar. 29.97  
noon Position 12-38 S 164-5 E  
Similar weather conditions to fore. noon

March 7 Light breeze and passing showers.  
noon Position 10-41 S 163-42 E  
Wind variable and calm.

March 8 Similar weather during the night.  
9 A.M. Observed the land on port bow.  
noon Position Owa Raka (Santa Anna) S & W 21 miles  
4:30 Started engine, heavy rain over land  
6:15 Approaching the reef, heavy rain squalls  
6:32 Arrived and anchored in Port Mary.  
Heavy rain during the night, anchor  
watch kept.

March 9 Boat ashore at 6:15 A.M. with party collecting.  
Rain showers at times, 8 A.M. Bar 29.95  
After 8 A.M. very heavy continuous rain  
crew employed scrubbing the deck.  
All on board by 5 P.M.

March 10 Similar weather during the night  
Boat away at 6:30 with party, returned  
by 5:30 P.M. crew variously employed  
Vessel pumped out when required

## Yacht "France"

March 11 continuous rain during the night Bar 29.95 <sup>8 A.M.</sup>  
Boat away with collecting party at 6:35 A.M.  
crew variously employed about the decks.  
Sticks returned at noon with fever. Charlie  
also laid up. Mr Beck on board at 2 P.M.  
Passing showers during the night.

March 12 Dull, cloudy weather Bar. 29.98  
Boat away with Mr Beck at 6:30 A.M.  
Doctor and Sticks went later.  
Rain during afternoon and evening.  
All on board by 3 P.M.

March 13 Cloudy and passing showers Bar. 29.95  
Sabbath day observed, all hands ashore  
for dinner at Mr Kupis.

Sudden, short puffs of wind during the night  
March 14 Moderate ESE wind, fine & clear Bar 30.00  
Boat ashore with collecting party at 7 A.M.  
crew employed at various work  
and painting overside. Heavy shower  
at 3 P.M. All on board by 6 P.M.  
Fine weather during the night.

March 15 Dull, overcast and passing showers.  
crew variously employed.  
Boat with collecting party away at 10 A.M.  
All on board by 4 P.M. Rain showers  
during the night.

March 16 5:20 A.M. crew turned to getting ready  
for departure. 6:15 Anchor aweigh & started  
engine, sails set but very little wind.  
Heavy rain while off Cape Surville.  
8:34 Arrived & anchored at Star Harbour  
in 16 fms abreast of Island. Bar 30.04  
Boat ashore with collecting party at noon,  
returned at 6 P.M.

Fine weather during the night,  
Vessel pumped out as often as required



## Yacht "France"

March 17 Fresh E & E breeze, overcast and light rain.  
Bar 8 A.M. 30.04

Mr Beck away with small boat at 7 A.M.

Crew employed mixing paint and getting ready for painting ship.

Doctor & Hicks away on Anchor Id collecting  
All on board by 6 P.M. Fine, calm weather.

March 18 Balm & fine. Clear sky. Bar 30.09

Small boat away with Mr Beck & Hicks at 6.30 A.M.

Crew employed painting ship & rigging.

Finished her all round by 3 P.M.

All on board again at 5.30. Fine weather during night.

March 19 Balm & fine. Very hot weather Bar. 30.05

Mr Beck & Hicks away collecting

Crew variously employed. The schooner "Mendana"  
arrived from the north during the afternoon.

All on board by 4 P.M. Fine & calm during night.

March 20 Similar weather during the day.

Sabbath day observed

March 21 The fine weather continues Bar 30.11

Both boats away at 6.30 A.M. with collecting  
party for fresh water.

All on board by 6 P.M. Fine during the night.

March 22 to April 2. The vessel remained  
at Star Harbour. Fine weather, with  
light variable winds. Parties away  
daily collecting. Crew variously  
employed.

April 3 Wind from North & N.W. freshening and  
squally with rain.

At 3 P.M. the S.S. "Malanta" arrived  
and anchored close to us. Rain during the night.

April 4 Northerly wind and passing showers

Mr Beck over to the steamer buying  
stores. Weather clearing up, wind  
going to the Eastward.

Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

April 5 8/30 A.M. Left Star Harbour with engine  
Variable wind and passing showers.

Noon stopped engine.

1/35 Started up again, very heavy rain  
till 5 P.M.

6.20 P.M. Arrived & anchored in Nanoni  
Bay at the P.C. Mission in 14 fms.

April 6 Variable winds & fine, cloudy weather.

Party away collecting. Remainder of  
crew attempting to get fresh water  
off from the beach.

April 7 Light variable winds & cloudy weather.

8/10 Hove up & proceeded with engine

8/21 Stopped engine and drifted about  
till 3 P.M. when the engine was  
started again & we made for

Kiva. Kiva at which place we  
arrived & anchored at 4.10 P.M.

Mr Lily (?) the Government Official boarded  
and spent the evening. Fine during the night.

April 8 Light variable airs & fine weather

Mr Beck & Hicks away collecting.

Crew getting fresh water from the  
Government House, a long way to  
carry it to the beach.

5.30 P.M. All on board again. A fine night

April 9 Similar weather continues.

Mr Beck & Hicks away collecting.

Crew variously employed.

April 10 Fine weather & a light S.E. breeze

Sabbath day observed.

April 11 6/27 A.M. Hove up & proceeded

under sail with light S.E. breeze.

Wind fell light soon after leaving  
so returned to anchor at 10/30 A.M.

Mr Beck & Hicks ashore collecting till 5 P.M.

Vessel pumped dry as required.



## Yacht "France"

April 11 (continued)

5/30 P.M. Hove up & proceeded with  
N E by breeze, variable & light  
making very little headway and  
by midnight becalmed close to Uzi.

April 12 Similar weather conditions  
during fore-noon.

11/30 A.M. started the engine and  
at 1/15 P.M. arrived & anchored  
in Selwyn Bay, Uzi.

Mr Beck & Hicks ashore collecting.  
April 13 Fine & calm during the night.  
Party ashore at 7 A.M. collecting.  
Crew variously employed.

5 P.M. All on board again.

5/45 Hove up & proceeded with engine,  
setting all sail. 6/0 P.M. stopped engine.  
Wind light from S S E, smooth sea.

April 14 4 A.M. the breeze finished.

8 A.M. started the engine & stood over  
towards San Bristol.

9.35 A.M. Arrived & anchored at a village  
7 miles south of C. Recherche.

Wind freshening from Eastward, cloudy sky.

3.15 P.M. Hove up & proceeded under sail  
for Guadalcanar.

Breeze continued throughout the evening  
but fell light and then calm by midnight.

April 15 Calm and light airs continued till 8 A.M.

8.5 A.M. started the engine.

12.10 P.M. Arrived and anchored in  
Marau Sound at 10 Graham, 14 fms.

Party away collecting, returning  
at 6 P.M.

Fine weather during the night, tides run  
very strong.

Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

April 16 Light variable winds & fine weather.

7 A.M. Mr Beck & Hicks landed for  
collecting. Crew employed sandpapering  
the bright work.

4 P.M. All on board again.

April 17 Fine weather continues.

Sabbath day observed.

April 18 Fine, clear weather. Bar. 30.02

Mr Beck & Hicks away collecting.

Noon The "Mendana" arrived from the  
south & left for Tulagi at 5 P.M.

April 19 Similar weather continues.

Mr Beck & Hicks away collecting.  
Crew employed scrapping the poop  
& reeving off new halyards to fore-sail.  
All on board by 6 P.M.

April 20 Fine weather, light variable wind Bar. 30.00

Mr Beck away collecting alone.

Crew variously employed.

3.20 P.M. Hove up & proceeded through  
the Sound under engine power.

4.12 P.M. Arrived & anchored under the  
high land of Malpa Id in 19 fms.

April 21 Fine weather during the night.

7 A.M. Mr Beck & Hicks away collecting.

Crew employed scrapping the decks.

All on board again by 4/30 P.M.

Getting vessel ready for sea.

Sky clouding over & at 6 P.M. heavy rain  
started continuing till 9 P.M.

April 22 Wind fresh from NW with overcast sky.

6/0 A.M. Hove up & proceeded down channel  
with engine.

6.50 Anchored at a bay south end of Beagle Id.

4.0 P.M. All on board again.

4/40 — 5/12 P.M. Shifting to anchorage 2 miles up channel.

Vessel pumped out daily as required, making <sup>water</sup> ~~not~~ freely.



# Yacht "France" At Marau Sound

- April 23 Fine weather during the night  
7 A.M. Party landed for collecting. Bar 29.96  
Dull & overcast, with moderate N.W. wind  
3 P.M. All aboard again.  
Very strong tides running at this anchorage
- April 24 Fine, calm weather  
Sabbath day observed.  
Mr Beck taking photographs.
- April 25 Dull & overcast sky. Light N.W. breeze  
6 A.M. Hove up & proceeded with engine  
out of Marau Sound and up along  
the coast close in shore.  
8/45 A.M. Arrived & anchored at Kau Kau in  
18 fms opposite Lever Bros House.  
Party landed for collecting.  
Crew sand papering the poop & oiling same  
6 P.M. All on board again.  
Some showers during the night.
- April 26 Light N.W. breeze & fine weather.  
7 A.M. Party landed for collecting.  
Crew employed filling up the tank  
from the stream.  
6 P.M. all on board again, fine weather
- April 27 Similar weather conditions.  
Mr Beck & Hicks away collecting.  
Crew variously employed, cleaning ship  
6 P.M. All on board again.
- April 28 Light S.E. airs, fine weather.  
8 P.M. Hove up and set all sail.  
8/25 — 10/0 Engine used till breeze freshened;  
going along the Guadakarar coast  
till 5 P.M., then set a course for Baranago  
10/55 P.M. Started the engine  
Midnight Entering the harbour  
Vessel pumped out when required, making  
a lot of water daily.

# Yacht "France" At Tulagi

- April 29 11/0 A.M. Arrived and anchored in  
Tulagi Harbour opposite the town  
in 22 fms. Regulation lights exhibited.  
~~April 30~~ 9 A.M. Mr Beck ashore to post office for  
ships mail.  
2 P.M. Mr Beck, myself & Doctor ashore to  
report arrival to Government Office.  
Crew variously employed throughout
- April 30 calm & light airs during the night.  
Doctor Drowne went to hospital this morning  
and Charles Thineas A.B. was sent during  
the afternoon for treatment for Malaria.  
Fresh S.E. breeze & some rain during the day.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> Light variable airs in morning and  
fresh E by during afternoon with a heavy rain  
shower.  
Manuel Peki A.B. went to hospital for  
treatment similar to C. Thineas.
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> Light breeze and fine weather.  
Tried to get engineers to come off to  
overhaul the engine, all very busy.  
Carpenter at work on steering gear.  
Crew employed painting overside
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> Fine weather. Carpenter came and  
finished the steering gear  
Crew variously employed.
- May 4<sup>th</sup> Fine weather. Mr Adams, the engineer  
came over to inspect the repairs  
started on some of them.  
Mr. Peki & C. Thineas discharged from  
hospital
- May 5<sup>th</sup> Similar weather continues.  
Engineer at work on repairs.  
Crew assisting with the work.  
Vessel pumped out daily as required.



## Yacht "France"

- May 6<sup>th</sup> to May 12 The vessel remained at the same anchorage and took in stores and did various jobs.  
On Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> Taora was shipped as cook and on May 7<sup>th</sup> R. King was payed off and sailed in the schooner "Elsie" for Noumea.
- May 12<sup>th</sup> At 7 A.M. to day, the cook, Taora, went away with Mr Beck, George & 2 of the crew to do a diving job. They were successful in fixing slings to raise a sunken vessel.  
11/55 Stove up & proceeded to sea with engine 12/35 clear of the harbour and stopped engine, very little wind from N.E. Variable during afternoon and strong tide against us from 1 A.M.
- May 13<sup>th</sup> Fine weather during early morning.  
7/13 A.M. Started the engine  
10/40 A.M. Arrived & anchored off the Government station at Aola. Boat ashore at once with collecting party.  
All on board by 5 P.M.  
Heavy rain at 7 P.M. & continued at intervals during the night.
- May 14<sup>th</sup> Light breeze & overcast sky. Bar 30.05  
Party ashore collecting at 7.30 A.M.  
Unbent fore sail, cleaned spars & varnished same.  
All on board by 4 P.M.  
Heavy rain during the night.
- May 15<sup>th</sup> Rain and overcast sky during fore-noon.  
Since later  
Sabbath day observed  
Vessel pumped out daily as required

## Yacht "France"

- May 16<sup>th</sup> Fine, clear weather, light SE breeze.  
Party landed for collecting at 7 A.M.  
Bent the old fore sail?  
All on board by 3.30 P.M.  
Fine during the night.
- May 17<sup>th</sup> Fine during fore-noon. Light variable breeze.  
Party landed for collecting at 7 A.M.  
Brew getting fresh water during afternoon.  
Rain showers at times.  
All on board by 5 P.M.  
Fine during the night.
- May 18<sup>th</sup> Light Westerly breeze, fine.  
5/55 A.M. Got under way with the engine and proceeded along the coast to the westward.  
9/13 A.M. Came to T off Bevanade in 7 ftms.  
Party landed immediately for collecting.  
Tides running strongly at the anchorage.  
All on board by 5 P.M.  
Fine during the night.
- May 19<sup>th</sup> Light N.W. breeze till 8 A.M. Variable winds <sup>later</sup> lighter with a short N.W. squall during afternoon.  
Brew employed getting freshwater from the house all the morning.  
Collectors returned at 4 P.M.  
Light S'ly during the night, passing showers.
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Light S'ly to SE'ly, cloudy & dull. Bar 30.01  
Mr Beck landed for collecting at 7 A.M.  
Brew variously employed.  
All on board by 5.30 P.M.  
Waiting for land breeze to start.  
7.15 P.M. Stove up & proceeded out with light S'ly breeze, making very little headway, passing showers all night.  
Vessel pumped out daily as required.



## Yacht "France"

May 21 Light variable wind, overcast and passing showers. Vessel drifting with the tide, about 3 miles off Barunga Id Lt at 5 A.M.

Started the engine at 6 A.M. after much trouble in getting it going.

8/55 A.M. Arrived and anchored in Tulagi harbour. Sent mail away by J.S. Motaram. Squally with rain during the night. Vessel dragged her anchor about 50 yds.

May 22 Light breeze, fine clear weather Sabbath day observed.

May 23 Calm and light airs Bar 30.04 Got all ready for departure at 5.30 A.M., but the engine was not ready and later it refused to start. Sailing abandoned and Mr Beck landed for collecting, Hicks fixing the engine.

Mr Beck returned at 2/45 P.M., hove up & proceeded at 2/55 under engine power through the channel round Gavutu Id.

4/55 P.M. Arrived and anchored in Port Turvis. Calm and light rain & showers.

May 24 Calm and fine clear weather Bar 30.00 6.30 A.M. Party landed for collecting. Crew employed painting the boat and rove off new main halyards. All on board by 5 P.M. Fine during the night.

May 25 Calm and light variable airs Mr Beck landed for collecting. Crew variously employed. All on board by 6 P.M. Fine during the night. Vessel pumped out during the day as required.

## Yacht "France"

May 26 Anchored in Port Turvis, similar to yesterday.

May 27 Calm and variable airs. 8 A.M. Bar 30.01 6.17 A.M. Hove away, but had to wait till the engine would start before lifting the T, then proceeded down channel.

7/25 Arrived off Gavutu Id and stopped, Mr Beck landed to visit the store.

8/6 Got away, but soon had trouble with the engine, which finally stopped. Set all sail and got steering way on her to clear between the reefs.

Engine started again after 3/4 hour.

9/13 Arrived and anchored in Tulagi Harb. Took in 100 gals of fresh water.

Hicks trying to fix the engine.

Very heavy rain all night.

May 28 Light breeze, overcast and passing showers 5/30 Hove short and waited till 6/35 for the engine to get fixed and started, then proceeded out, setting sail as soon as possible.

Mr Beck stopped the engine without reference to me, while in the channel between Sylvia & Southern Cross Reefs. The vessel had only the head sails on her at the time and the fore-sail was being set. We passed through steering by the wind.

Set course for Guadalcanar and breeze freshened.

12/35 Arrived and anchored at Dommia.

Party landed for collecting. Fresh E'ly wind and moderately rough sea.

Let go the star T at 3 P.M. as the vessel had dragged a little.

5 P.M. All on board again; wind and sea going down. Fine during the night.

Vessel pumped out daily as required; making a lot of water while at anchor with the head sea.

Doctor Droune rejoined the vessel from hospital



## Yacht "France"

May 29 Light S.E. breeze and smooth sea during the forenoon. Bar 30.50. Freshen up later and had a rough sea till about 6 P.M.

May 30 Light breeze, smooth and fine during night. Calm and light variable airs. Bar 30.04.

Party landed for collecting at 6.30 A.M. Slacked away to 60 fms of cable on Port T. Crew employed chipping the cable and cleaning out the locked. All on board by 6 P.M. Swell from the N.E. started at 8 P.M. and continued all night. Vessel rolling heavily and had to keep pumping as she makes a lot of water.

May 31 Light S.E. wind and fine, the swell continues and vessel rolling.

Party landed for collecting at 6.30 A.M. Trager A.B. laid up with fever, remainder of crew salting down meat, which we obtained from the plantation here. Swell had gone down by noon.

All on board by 6 P.M. Fine during the night.

June 1<sup>st</sup> Light E by breeze and smooth sea Bar 30.04. Party landed for collecting at 8 A.M.

Trager still laid up, remainder of crew employed chipping the cables.

A hard squall from the N.E. with driving rain at 3 P.M. Vessel started to drag, so let go Star T.

All on board by 5.30 P.M. Weather had cleared up and continued so during the night.

Vessel pumped out daily as required, making a lot of water even in fine weather and smooth sea.

## Yacht "France"

June 2<sup>nd</sup> Light E by breeze & smooth sea. Bar 30.01. Found at daylight that we had a round turn in cables, set to work to clear same. Mr Beck landed for collecting.

Trager A.B. still laid up with fever.

Started to leave away at noon, the engine having refused to start after much trying; got away at 12/30 under sail. Passed very close to Donna Reef.

Breeze freshened up and sea becoming rough. Steering for north end of Savo. 4/50' Arrived and anchored on the West side of the Island in 4 1/2 fms water. Very strong tides running at the anchorage, fine during the night.

June 3 Light E by breeze & fine, clear weather Bar 29.98. Party landed for collecting & photographing at 7 A.M. in small boat. Big boat on deck for repairs. Breeze freshened up about 3 P.M., gave her 15 fms more chain.

Squally and heavy rain showers till 10 P.M., fine later. Bar 30.00.

June 4 Light variable breeze, dull & overcast. Party landed for collecting at 7 A.M.

Squally and rain showers from noon. 3/4 P.M. Stove up and got away under sail, wind variable and light.

Tacking to best advantage during the night, tides against us when in harbor.

June 5 Light variable winds and calm. Smooth sea, fine & very hot. Vessel drifting with the tide.

Similar conditions during the night.

Vessel pumped out daily while in port & frequently at sea, making much water.



# Yacht "France"

June 6. 1927.

June 6 Light breeze, dull and overcast Bar. 30.10  
At daylight the vessel close to the land.  
7 A.M. Started the engine and made for South end of Tongonangua Island, having passed this we steered to pass inshore of Sylvia Reef.

At 7.35 A.M. the vessel struck the reef extending from the SE end of Tulagi Island and stopped.

Kept the engine running but no more. Found that we were stuck aft, deep water from main mast forward. Boat over and kedge put out and line hove tight.

Started to shift all the stores from aft to as far forward as possible. At 8/15 we moved off easily and hove up the kedge.

8/43 Anchored off Tulagi Island in 19 fms with 45 fms chain.

After anchoring the crew and myself examined the ships bottom by diving and it was found that about 2 ft of the copper plating on the keel, in a position abaft the mainmast, had been torn off.

As far as could be ascertained this was the only damage done.

We entered the harbour in the way stated in order to save distance if possible because the engine was running on two cylinders.

During the afternoon Mr. Adams, the engineer examined the engine and Hicks started take it down for overhaul. Vessel pumped out daily as required.

# Yacht "France"

June 7 Calm and light variable in the morning, moderate to fresh breeze in the afternoon. Bar 8 A.M. 30.07  
Hicks and one man employed overhauling the engine. Brew getting the masts scraped down. Grazer & B started work again. Fine during the night.

June 8 Similar weather conditions to yesterday. Engine overhaul continues, sent one cylinder ashore for repairs. Brew finishing the masts.

June 9 Calm and very hot during forenoon. Overcast and passing showers from 4 P.M. to 8 P.M.

Brew scrubbed half the main boom & then washed down & did paint work. Fine during the night.

June 10 Light E by breeze and fine clear weather. Bar 30.06  
Brew variously employed. Finished the main boom.

Very heavy rain in the afternoon. Fine till midnight, then very heavy rain and strong squalls till 2 A.M.

June 11 Calm and light airs. Bar 8 A.M. 30.11  
Brew variously employed. Hicks and one man working at the engine. Fine all day and during the night.

June 12 Calm and light E by breeze. Sabbath day observed. Fine during the night.

Vessel pumped out daily as usual, makes a lot of water, but not more than before we struck the reef when entering this port.



## Yacht "France"

June 13 Light ESE breeze, fine clear weather Bar 30.10  
Mr Beck & boats crew went over to  
Gavantu in the fore noon.  
Filled up the fresh water tank from  
Carpenters wharf in the afternoon.  
Line during the night.

June 14 Calm and light airs Bar 30.09  
7 A.M. Thirteen boys from Makambo  
came off and started to scrub the  
vessel's bottom.

10/30. Finished the scrubbing, made a  
fairly good job of it.

Crew started to paint the top sides  
Moderate E by breeze & showery in the  
afternoon.

A total eclipse of the moon occurred  
from about 6 P.M. to 8/15.

Line during the night

June 15 The S.S. "Mataram" arrived during early A.M.  
Calm and fine clear weather Bar 30.08

From this date to July 7 the vessel lay  
at Tulagi getting the engine overhauled.  
The crew were variously employed at  
jobs about the decks.

July 7 6/35 A.M. Hove up and proceeded out, but the  
engine soon gave trouble and so returned  
to anchor at 7/0 A.M.

9/30 - 10/30 Tried the engine again

12/30 - 1/40 " " " "

Decided to remain at anchor till it  
was running in order.

Very heavy rain and squalls during the  
night.

Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

July 8 Dull, overcast and showery. Bar 30.02  
6/20 Hove up and proceeded out with  
engine running fairly well

6/53 Stopped engine and set all sail  
Moderate breeze and sea. Steering for  
N.W. end of Guadalcanar.

Breeze freshened up later.

1/45 Started the engine.

1/55 Arrived & anchored off Lavero in 9 fms  
Mr Beck, Dr Droune & Hicks landed for  
collecting; returning at 5/30 P.M.

July 9 Calm & light airs. Fine & clear Bar. 29.98  
Collecting party ashore at 7 A.M.  
Crew employed making new head gear.  
All on board by 5 P.M.

Line during the night

July 10 Similar weather conditions to yesterday.  
Sabbath day observed.

July 11 Light variable airs. Dull & overcast. Fine  
6/20 Hove up & proceeded under engine  
power towards E. Beaufort. Wind came  
ahead at noon.

12/25 Stopped the engine & set all sail  
at West Cape and stood off the land.  
Wind freshened up and sea getting rough.  
at 1 P.M. the main sail split from  
head to foot; bent the new one.

5/0 Started the engine and at 5/22 P.M.  
arrived and anchored in Wanders Bay in  
10 fms water. Smooth water in bay  
but a ground swell runs in.

Line weather during the night.

Vessel pumped out daily as required  
She made a lot of water when  
going into a head sea and had to  
be pumped almost continually.



## Yacht "France"

- July 12 Light variable winds in Bay, fresh SE winds outside Bar 30.00  
collecting party landed at 7 A.M.  
crew employed repairing mainsail & getting fresh water from stream  
all on board by 6 P.M.  
Heavy rain showers during afternoon.  
Fine weather & light airs all night.
- July 13 Similar weather conditions to yesterday morning  
Party landed at 7 A.M. Bar 30.02  
crew employed rearing off new lanyards in fore-rigging & got a load of fresh water.  
All on board by 5/30 P.M.  
Fine during the night
- July 14 Light variable airs, dull overcast. Bar. 30.05  
5/10 A.M. Hove up & proceeded under engine power towards Cape Hunter.  
7/25. Arrived & anchored off Boneggi River in bay to NW of Hunter Rd, in 12 fms.  
Party landed for collecting, Dr Drowne staying on board. crew employed on rigging.  
All on board again by 6 P.M.  
Fine during the night.
- July 15 Light variable winds in bay, overcast & cloudy  
Party landed for collecting at 7 A.M.  
crew employed cutting up the old mainsail  
All on board by 6 P.M. Fine weather during night.
- July 16 Similar weather conditions to yesterday morning.  
Dr Drowne & Frazer landed for collecting at 9 A.M.  
Mr Beck getting gear ready for camping out next week.  
crew variously employed  
All on board by 5 P.M. Fine during the night.  
Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

- July 17 Light breeze and fine clear weather  
Sabbath day observed
- July 18 Light variable winds, cloudy, but fine  
At 7 A.M. Party landed to go inland and camp. Mr Beck, Hicks & David are to stay ashore, 3 of the crew went with them to carry the gear. Dr Drowne away collecting, returned at 3 P.M.  
The men did not get back till after dark.  
Fine weather all the time.
- July 19 Similar weather continues  
Dr Drowne away after sea birds with the small boat.  
Wind freshened up after noon & cloudy sky. Passing showers  
Fine during the night
- July 20 Light breeze & fine weather  
A heavy swell setting into the bay from the S.W.  
Dr Drowne away collecting till 4 P.M.  
Look the small boat on deck & painted her.
- July 21 Similar weather to yesterday.  
Heavy swell & big break on beach.  
Tried to get boat ashore for fire-wood, but no good.  
Dr Drown away collecting in morning.
- July 22 Light variable wind of wind.  
6 A.M. Mrs Beck & Frazer left to go up the mountains & meet party.  
Remainder of crew clearing up hold.  
Two men (natives) arrived from the mountains at 4 P.M. for more stores for the campers.  
Mrs Beck & Frazer failed to return, so we believe they must be staying at camp.  
Vessel pumped out daily as required



## Yacht "France"

- July 23 Light breeze, dull & overcast.  
Dr Drowne away collecting sea birds.  
Rain started about 8 A.M. & continued till 1 P.M. Brew got a load of fire wood in afternoon.  
4 P.M. Hicks came on board, with birds from the camp; Frazer returned later. Mr <sup>Mrs</sup> Beck, David staying in mountains for week end.
- July 24 Light breeze & fine, clear weather. Sabbath day observed.
- July 25. Similar weather conditions to above. Bar 30.02 8 A.M.  
Dr Drowne away collecting at 7 A.M. Brew getting fresh water from pond; Doctor said it was not fit for drinking when he came on board, although the tank had Bondy's crystals put in it. Will use the after tanks for drinking.
- July 26 Light breeze, fine weather.  
Brew employed cleaning out the port after water tank & afterwards filling it from the starboard one. Frazer went away collecting in afternoon. All on board by 5 P.M.
- July 27 Light breeze & fine, clear weather.  
Dr Drowne ashore collecting at 7 A.M. Brew employed setting up the main rigging & reeving off new lanyards where required. All on board by 3.30 P.M.
- July 28 Light & hazy breeze, fine, cloudy.  
Frazer went ashore collecting, returned 2 P.M.  
4 P.M. Mr & Mrs Beck, Hicks & David returned from the mountains.  
6.55 P.M. Hove up & proceeded out with engine.  
7.7 Stopped engine and set all sail, light land breeze.  
Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

Proceeding towards Russel Group.

- July 29 Light breeze and calm at times during the night and morning, vessel making very little headway.  
8 P.M. Mr Beck away with small boat collecting sea birds till noon.  
Breeze freshen up in afternoon.  
6.30 P.M. Look in mainsail & outer-jib & at 9 P.M. hove to under fore sail & staysail.
- July 30 Wind variable in early morning, heavy rain & showers from S.W.  
Made all sail at daylight and stood in for the land. Started engine at 6.37 A.M. & at 8.7 arrive at Kioie Id & hove to, put boat out & Mr Beck & Dr Drowne went ashore collecting. Picked up boat at 9.47 with hunters & proceeded under engine to Kioie Id and landed party again at 1.52 P.M. Kept vessel standing off & on.  
All aboard at noon & proceeded with engine towards Banika. Stopped engine at 1 P.M. & with fresh breeze, sailed. Anchored at 3.38 P.M. at a plantation, but hove up again almost immediately as the Tige was too close in.  
Went over to a small unnamed Id & found Tige in 15 fms., rock bottom.  
6.30 P.M. Vessel dragged off, hove up & worked back to Island with engine and at 7.45 P.M. anchored again in same place, also put keelge ashore close to reef. Vessel lying fairly well; this is a poor place to anchor. Strict anchor watch kept.  
Vessel pumped out daily as required.



## Yacht "France"

- July 31<sup>st</sup> Light S.E. breeze & fine weather  
Vessel lying quietly, hanging to  
the kedge line most of the time.  
Cable grinding in the house pipe  
when the swell lifts her; put a  
preventer on it to ease the windlass.  
Sabbath day observed
- Aug 1<sup>st</sup> Similar weather to yesterday in early  
morning, breeze freshed up about  
10 A.M. from S.E.  
Mr Beck, Doctor & Hicks ashore  
collecting & sent off some fresh  
meat. Brew getting fire wood  
all aboard by 5 P.M.  
Wind shifted round to N.E. with  
heavy rain about 10 P.M. & continued  
from that quarter all night.  
Vessel swinging round & lay close to  
reef, hanging to the T.
- Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> Light breeze, dull & overcast.  
5/8 A.M. Let go the kedge line & lifted  
the anchor. Started to heave up the star  
bower T with all hands. Very heavy  
heaving with all that chain out.  
Using engine as required to keep  
out from the reef.  
6/30 T. weigh & full ahead, setting sail  
as soon as we passed the sand bay.  
7/45 Stopped the engine & proceeded  
along the coast with fair wind.  
1/50 P.M. Arrived & anchored in  
Hooper Bay. Pavuru Island in 16 fms.  
collectors landed at once. Brew cleaning  
out fresh water tank & filling from shore.  
A squall at 9 P.M. sent us close to the  
reef while swinging round.  
Vessel pumped out at times when required

## Yacht "France"

- Aug 3 balm, light airs of fine Bar 30.10  
collectors ashore at 6.30 A.M.  
Brew filling the fresh water tank.  
Hove up T & shifted the vessel  
out into deeper water at 11 A.M.  
Heavy rain at mid-day, fine  
later.  
All on board by 5.30 P.M.  
Line during the night.
- Aug 4 balm, fine weather Bar 30.05 8 A.M.  
Mr Beck, Doctor, Hicks & David away  
collecting. Brew employed washing  
paint work.  
All on board by 5 P.M. Line during the night.
- Aug 5 Similar weather to yesterday.  
Mr Beck ashore collecting by himself  
in fore-noon, Doctor & Hicks in  
afternoon. Brew employed at  
various jobs about decks.
- Aug 6 Light Ely breeze fine.  
Doctor & Hicks away collecting.  
Brew scrubbed vessel round  
outside.  
All on board by 5 P.M.
- Aug 7 balm & fine clear weather Bar 30.05  
Sabbath day observed.  
Heavy rain started at 8 P.M.  
and continued all night.
- Aug 8 Overcast and continuous rain  
Brew filled up all the fresh water tanks  
Party landed for collecting in afternoon,  
rain cleared off about 1 P.M.  
All on board by 5/30 P.M.  
Line during the night.  
Vessel pumped out daily as required



## Yacht "Lrance"

Aug 9 Calm, fine clear weather Bar. 30.04  
5/50 A.M. Hove up & proceeded out under engine power. 6/55 Stopped engine & set all sail, moderate SE breeze & heavy swell.  
12/50 P.M. Arrived off Murray Id., hove to and sent boat away with Mr & Mrs Beck & Doctor Drowne. Very deep water all round Island, no possible anchorage.  
4/50 P.M. All on board again and stood away to the northward.

Variable winds and rain squalls during the night. Current running to south, vessel making very little headway.

Aug 10 Variable winds and rain squalls. A strong squall from N.E. carried away the leach of the mainsail. Hauled down & repaired same. As the wind continued light and variable, the engine was used at intervals when vessel would not lay her course, steering for Russell Is.  
3/45 P.M. Arrived at Hooper Bay and anchored in 20 fms.

Total time that Engine was used 5 hrs 15 mins  
Mr Beck went away collecting till 5/30 P.M.  
Fine weather during the night.

Aug 11 Calm, fine clear weather Bar 30.02  
Mr Beck & Doctor went ashore collecting for 2 hrs.  
9/50 Hove up & proceeded out under engine power. 10/50 Set all sail, stopped engine. Light SE breeze, vessel making about 1-2 knots. Weather conditions continued during night.

Aug 12 Breeze freshened up a little before daylight. Steering for south end of Gabel Id. 3/25. Started the engine. 5/40 Arrived & anchored in Vulavu (Thousand Ships Bay) in 15 fms. Fine during the night. Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "Lrance"

Aug 13 Light SE breeze at daylight, freshened up later and continued during day.  
Mr Beck, Doctor & Hicks away collecting till 4 P.M.

~~Time starting~~ Heavy rain at 7 P.M. and kept on till 10 P.M. Wind variable.

Aug 14 Dull & overcast, with passing showers. Wind variable. Sabbath day observed.

Aug 15 1/50 A.M. Started to get vessel ready for sea.

1/30... I away & proceeded under engine setting sail as soon as possible.

2/15 Stopped engine, wind light & variable.

10/50 Fresh SE breeze, steering for C. Priets.

2/25 P.M. started the engine.

2/45... Arrived & anchored in Turnibuli in 12 fms. Strong squalls & heavy rain at times. Vessel laying close to reef when she swings.

Aug 16 Dull, overcast & squally. Bar 30.01. Sky cleared and wind fell light after 8 A.M. Collectors away at 6/30 A.M. Crew variously employed.

All on board by 6 P.M. Fine during the night.

Aug 17 Light SW breeze, dull & cloudy.

5/40 A.M. Hove up & proceeded under engine towards Meringue Lagoon. 6/50 A.M. Stopped engine.

Wind continued light till 10 A.M., then moderate SE breeze all day till 5 P.M.

when a heavy rain squall finished the steady wind. At 5/30 P.M. Down mainsail & jibs and hove to for the night, as we could not make the reef entrance before dark.

Vessel drifting to the SE with the current. Wind light and variable all night with passing showers.

Vessel pumped out daily as required.



## Yacht "France"

- Aug 18 Similar weather conditions to last night.  
10/5 A.M. Started the engine  
1/40 P.M. Arrived & anchored in Meringe Lagoon  
in 15 fms. Collectors landed at once. Returned 5/20 P.M.  
Fine weather & light breeze during night.
- Aug 19 Light SE breeze at daylight, freshened  
up at 8 A.M. & continued all day.  
Collectors away at 6.30 A.M. & returned  
at 6 P.M. George went across to  
the Island to shoot a beast for  
salting down. Fine during the night.
- Aug 20 Moderate ESE breeze at dawn. Bar 30.00 8 A.M.  
Party ashore collecting at 7 A.M.  
Breeze freshened up at 8 A.M. & kept up  
all day. All on board by 5/30 P.M.  
From 10 P.M. on, heavy rain & squalls  
from SE continuing all night.
- Aug 21 Dull & overcast, with light showers.  
Sabbath day observed.  
Fine during the night.
- Aug 22 Dull & overcast. Light ESE breeze  
7 A.M. Party left the ship to go camping  
in the hills. Shortly afterwards it  
started to rain heavily and continued  
till noon. The trip to hills was  
abandoned till the weather clears.  
All on board by 5 P.M. Fine during night.
- Aug 23 Calm & light airs. Fine & clear Bar 30.01  
Party left for the hill camp at  
6/30 A.M. Only one man & myself remain  
on board. Mr Beck & two boys  
returned at 5/30 P.M.  
Fine during the night.

Vessel pumped out daily as  
required, she makes a lot of  
water when in a head swell or sea

## Yacht "France"

- Aug 24 Light breeze, ESE, fine weather.  
Started repairing the mainsail  
Mr Beck ashore collecting.  
All on board by 6 P.M. Fine night.
- Aug 25 Similar weather conditions to yesterday.  
George & myself on mainsail. Crew  
variously employed.
- Aug 26 Light variable winds & calm. Passing  
showers during morning, fine after noon.  
Hands employed as yesterday.
- Aug 27 Moderate SE breeze & a heavy shower at 10 A.M.  
Party returned from the mountains  
at 1 P.M.  
Finished the mainsail & bent it at  
4 P.M. Fine during the night.
- Aug 28 Fresh breeze & squally, with rain  
from daylight to 11 A.M. Fine later  
Sabbath day observed.
- Aug 29 Calm & light airs. Bar 30.01  
7/17 A.M. Moved up & proceeded across  
the lagoon to Vera Id & stopped for  
some stores. 8/35 Under way again up  
the lagoon to "Darlingtons" at which  
place we arrived & anchored in 10 fms at 9/35  
Mr Beck, Doctor & Hicks landed for collecting.  
All on board by 6 P.M. Fine during night.
- Aug 30 Calm & light airs till 10 A.M. Moderate ESE  
breeze till 5 P.M.  
Collecting party landed at 6/30 A.M.  
Crew employed filling the fresh-water  
tank from the house ashore.  
All on board again by 5/30 P.M.  
Fine during the night.

Vessel pumped out daily as required.



## Yacht "France"

Aug 31<sup>st</sup> Calm & light variable airs till 9 P.M.  
Moderate ESE wind later.  
Mr Beck, Hicks & 3 of crew went  
away with big boat up the coast to  
collect & also shoot a bear for  
fresh meat. Doctor Drowne collecting  
along river with small boat.  
All returned to ship by 6 P.M.  
Fine weather till midnight.

Sept 1 Squally & heavy rain showers from  
midnight & continued all day.  
Collectors did not land. Crew got  
a boat load of fire wood in afternoon.  
Sky clearing at sunset but still showery.

Sept 2 Light SE breeze fine weather Bar 30.11  
11/40 Stove up & proceeded down channel  
under engine power. 8/25 Set all  
sail & stopped engine, passed  
out of Maringe Lagoon by Main  
Passage. Beating to best advantage  
to Eastward all day.  
8/30 P.M. A fresh squall with  
rain, carried away throat halyards  
of fore sail, repaired same & set again.  
Wind fell light & calm, vessel  
not steering, current setting NW.

Sept 3. Similar weather & conditions to last  
night.  
12/25 P.M. Started engine & set course  
for Ramos Island.

6/25 Arrived & anchored at Ramos  
in 6 fms. Moderate ESE wind  
during the night.

Vessel pumped out daily as required;  
making water fast when in a head  
swell, even when at anchor.

## Yacht "France"

Sept 4 Moderate ESE breeze & considerable  
confused swell, making vessel  
roll & pitch.

8 P.M. Stove up anchor & shifted  
ship inshore to a more sheltered  
position. Fresh breeze from noon  
and swell increased, vessel  
rolling heavily at times. Dr Drowne  
collected in fore-noon.

Similar weather conditions continued  
all night.

Sept 5 Fresh ESE to SE wind, vessel rolling.  
Party landed for collecting at 7 A.M.  
Crew employed repairing sails.  
All on board at 4/30 P.M.

5/10 P.M. Stove up & set all sail,  
steering for the coast of Ysabel.  
Fresh breeze all night.

Midnight. Maringe Lagoon abeam 1 1/2 miles

Sept 6 Breeze continues up to 8/30 A.M. when  
it fell light and variable, current  
setting us off shore.

11/30 A.M. Breeze started again from  
Eastward, ship making about 3 knots.

4/23. Off Gijunabena Islands, started  
the engine & steered for entrance.

5/40. Arrived & anchored in 4 fms in  
Rekata Bay. at Suavana.

Sept 7 Light SE breeze, dull & cloudy  
Collecting party landed at 6.30 A.M.  
Crew filling up the tank from shore.  
All returned to ship by 6 P.M.  
Heavy showers in afternoon.  
Fine during the night.  
Vessel pumped out when  
required.



## Yacht France

- Sept 8 Light breeze & fine weather.  
Collectors landed on the various Islands in the Bay, using both boats. All on board by 5 P.M.  
From 8 P.M. till midnight a lot of lightning & thunder with heavy rain & squally from SE.
- Sept 9 Variable winds & squally, heavy showers  
8/25 A.M. Hove up & proceeded under engine power to an Island about 4 miles down the Bay, anchored 9/10 A.M. & collected at three places.  
1/5 P.M. Hove up & went on down the Rekata Bay, stopping at Sand Bay to get sea birds.  
Anchored at the most out lying Islands of Bay at 3/23 P.M. Heavy rain & squalls. Collectors away till 5/30 P.M.  
Weather cleared up at 8 P.M. & remained fine during the night.
- Sept 10 Moderate SE wind & cloudy weather Bar 30.00  
Collectors landed at 7 A.M. to work at various Islands with both boats. Heavy rain squalls from 10 A.M., continuing all day.  
All on board by 4 P.M.  
Passing showers during the night.
- Sept 11 Light SE breeze in morning, freshened up later, some showers, cloudy sky  
Sabbath day observed.
- Sept 12 Variable wind, squally & heavy rain  
7/57 A.M. Hove up & proceeded out under engine power 8/30 A.M. Set all sail, stopped engine & set course for north end of Ysabel. Continuous rain & moderate E by wind.  
5/50 P.M. started the engine & steered for  
Vessel pumped out when required

## Yacht France

- (continued)
- Sept 12 Kologilio Passage.  
6/20 P.M. Anchored at Bates Id in 15 fms. Fine during the night.
- Sept 13 Moderate SE breeze, fine & clear.  
Collectors landed on Bates Id for two hours.  
9/0 Hove up & proceeded under engine power through the passage towards Molakobi Id. Strong tide rips, reefs not shown as per chart.  
10/15 Anchored in 15 fms. behind a reef. Collectors landed & worked two Islands. All on board by 6 P.M.  
Fine during the night.
- Sept 14 Light E SE breeze & fine weather.  
Hove short at daylight & waited for sunrise to see the reefs. 6/15 A.M. started off with engine & passed out of Kologilio Channel at 6/57, set all sail & stopped engine. Breeze light & vessel making little headway.  
9/40 started the engine again & at 10/55 A.M. arrived & anchored at Anarvon Is (Castione) in 11 fms. Collectors landed at once & crew away to get a load of fire wood. All on board by 5/30 P.M. Fine during night.
- Sept 15 Moderate SE breeze & passing showers.  
No Beck away to the Islands collecting. In the afternoon Mr Beck & all crew went to an Island for Malau eggs.  
4/5 P.M. Hove up & proceeded out under engine power 4/25 P.M. Set all sail, stopped engine. Fresh breeze, steering for north of New Georgia. Wind fell light after 9 P.M.
- Sept 16 Weather conditions remain the same, vessel making about 2 1/2 knots. Tossed Longdale Pt, New Georgia at noon. Wind came ahead in afternoon. Beating across the Gulf all night. S.S. "Mataram" passed at 2 A.M., signalled. Vessel pumped out when required.



## Yacht "France"

Sept 17 Light winds all forenoon.

9/25 A.M. Started the engine & steered for Blackett Strait. 10/30 to 11/6 stopped for Mr Beck to go after sea birds with the small boat.

noon Passed through Blackett Strait, breeze freshened up & keeping engine running, steered for south entrance of reefs.

3/30 P.M. Arrived & anchored in Gigo

5/30 " " "Mataram" came in.

Fresh breeze from SE all night.

Sept 18 "Moderate breeze & fine weather  
"Mataram" sailed at noon. Showery afternoon.  
Sabbath day observed.

Sept 19 Similar weather to yesterday morning  
Crew employed cleaning paint work inside & out. Fine all day & night.

Sept 20 Light to moderate SE wind, fine & clear.  
Crew employed painting outside.  
Fine during the night.

Sept 21 Light breeze fine, clear weather  
6/0 A.M. The mail steamer arrived & sailed at 9 A.M.  
2/30 P.M. Hove up & proceeded out under engine, set all sail when through reef entrance, but kept engine running as the wind was light.  
Steering for Kulambangra Id.  
5/35 P.M. Arrived & anchored in Ariel Cove  
Fine during the night.

Sept 22 Light variable airs and calm, some showers.  
Collectors landed at 6/30 A.M. and took two of the crew to cut a track.  
Remainder of crew making new jib sheets.  
All on board by 5 P.M.  
Fine during the night.  
Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

Sept 23 Light airs & calm. Fine, clear weather Bar 30.01 <sup>8 A.M.</sup>  
Mr Beck, Hicks & two crew landed at 7 A.M.  
to go to the hills. Doctor Drowne collecting along the coast. Remainder of crew finishing jib sheets & reeving off new boat falls.  
All on board by 5.30 P.M.

Fine during the night.

Sept 24 Light airs & calm till 8 A.M. Fine & clear.  
Moderate S'ly to SE wind later & cloudy sky.  
Dr Drowne & Hicks went to the hills collecting.  
Crew filling the fresh water tank from stream.  
Collectors returned at 3/30 P.M.

Fine during the night.

Sept 25 Light to moderate southerly breeze. Fine. Bar 30.03 <sup>8 A.M.</sup>  
Sabbath day observed.

Sept 26 Light airs and calm. Fine, but cloudy over hills.  
at 8 A.M. Mr Beck & Hicks left the vessel to go camping in the mountains, taking two of the crew to carry their food etc.  
Dr Drowne away collecting.  
The two boys & Doctor returned at 4/30 P.M.  
Fine during the night.

Sept 27 Light S'ly breeze, fine & clear.  
Dr Drowne away collecting along the coast. Crew variously employed.  
All on board by 4 P.M. Fine during night.

Sept 28 Light airs & calm. Fine & clear in forenoon.  
Doctor went away at 6/30 A.M. to the mountains collecting.  
At 9/30 A.M. Hicks returned from the camp for more stores and left again with one of the crew to carry & shift camp in the high land.  
Very heavy rain started at noon and continued with intervals during the rest of the day.  
Doctor returned at 4 P.M.  
Passing light showers in the night.  
Vessel pumped out daily as required.



## Yacht "France"

Sept 29 Light variable airs, dull & cloudy.

Dr Drowne landed & collected along the head of the harbour.

Crew employed on rigging and oiled the masts.

At 3 P.M. the wind set in from the SW with heavy rain squalls, it continued so till 8 P.M., after then the wind fell light and torrential rain fell till midnight. Passing showers till dawn.

Sept 30 Calm & light airs, dull & overcast. Bar 30.06

Dr Drowne away collecting along the coast. Passing showers.

Similar weather during the night.

Oct 1 Light variable & SW breeze Bar 29.94 <sup>8 A.M.</sup>

Doctor collected close to ship in the morning.

Mr Beck returned from the mountains at noon. Heavy showers all day.

Oct 2 Calm, cloudy but fine in morning. Sabbath day observed.

SW breeze & passing showers in afternoon.

Oct 3 Calm & light airs. Fine & clear Bar 29.94 <sup>8 A.M.</sup>

At 8/30 A.M. Doctor Drowne, Trager and Manuel left the vessel to go camping in the mountains.

1 P.M. Arose up and proceeded out of harbour under engine power; set all sail but did not stop engine as the wind was light from SW.

Steering to enter the reef at Latitude Id.

2/55 P.M. Arrived and anchored in Gizo harbour in 11 fms water.

Squally from SE with light rain. Passing showers all night.

Vessel pumped out daily when required.

## Yacht "France"

Oct 4 Cloudy, with passing showers.

Sticks away collecting on Gizo Id. Mr Beck ashore to Burns, Philp for stores. Crew attending boat etc.

Heavy rain in the early part of the night.

Oct 5 Calm, fine & clear weather.

At 6 A.M. the schooner "Rubiana" was towed alongside to get her masts stepped, using our mast head tacks.

Sticks away collecting as yesterday. Returned at 5 P.M. Crew scrubbed the decks with sand in the morning.

Oct 6 Calm, fine & clear Bar 30.05 8 A.M.

Started oiling the decks as soon as the sun was on them.

Sticks away collecting as before. The S.S. "Koonikara" arrived yesterday afternoon from the South, but no one was on board to join the Expedition.

Oct 7 Calm, fine & clear.

Sticks away collecting, returned at 6 P.M.

Mr Beck ashore to B.I., took in stores & 25 cpc of Benigne.

Line during the night.

Oct 8 Moderate SE breeze at 9 A.M.

at 10/55 P.M. Arose up & proceeded out with engine running, setting sail as soon as possible.

Stopped engine for an hour outside reef, but started again as wind fell light.

3/32 P.M. Arrived & anchored in Ariel Cove. Doctor Drowne & the two men

had just returned from the mountains, all very wet & tired.

Line during the night.

Vessel pumped out daily when required.



## Yacht "France"

- Oct 9 Light variable winds all day. Fine.  
Sabbath day observed.
- Oct 10 Light airs, fine & clear in morning.  
7 A.M. Mr Beck, Hicks & David  
left the vessel to camp in the  
hills, two of crew carrying stores.  
11 A.M. to 4 P.M. Heavy rain showers.  
5 P.M. Sky clearing, but passing  
showers all night.
- Oct 11 N.E. by breeze, fine & clear. Bar 30.03 8 A.M.  
At 6/50 A.M. the big boat containing George,  
Manuel, & Charlie left the vessel to  
go over to Gizo. They had sufficient  
provisions, water & a compass.  
Heavy rain started at noon and continued  
throughout the remainder of the day.  
At 3 P.M. the schooner "Uwa" arrived  
from Gizo with our boat in tow.  
By her came Mr Hamlin & Mr. Richards  
to join the expedition.  
The "Uwa" remained alongside all night.
- Oct 12 Calm, cloudy & dull.  
"Uwa" cast off & left for Gizo at 7 P.M.  
The collectors landed at 8 A.M.  
Crew filled the fresh water tank.  
All on board by 5 P.M.
- Oct 13 Calm, fine & clear. Bar. 30.06 8 A.M.  
Doctor Drowne and Richards & Hamlin  
went ashore collecting at 8 A.M.  
Rain in the afternoon. Fine during night.
- Oct 14 Calm, fine & clear. Bar 30.10 8 A.M.  
The collectors landed at 7.30 A.M.  
Mr Beck, Hicks & David returned  
from the mountains at 11 A.M.  
All on board by 3.30 P.M.  
Mr Beck away alone in small boat till dark,  
Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

- Oct 15 Light N.E. breeze, fine & clear.  
Mr Beck away at 6 A.M. to shoot around  
the bay. At 9/30 A.M. He returned and  
we hove up and went outside  
the harbour and lay to waiting  
for sea birds. Used the engine when  
he saw a flock, tried to get up  
to them but had no chance till 4 P.M.  
Mr Beck away alone with small boat.  
at 5/15 P.M. he returned and we started  
the engine, steered for Kulambangra,  
6/3 P.M. Arrived and anchored in  
Sandfly Harbour in 14 fms.
- Oct 16 Calm, fine & clear.  
Sabbath day observed.
- Oct 17 Calm, fine & clear. Bar. 30.08 8 A.M.  
5/30 A.M. Mr Beck away to river in small  
boat. Other collectors landed at 7.15 A.M.  
Crew getting fresh water from stream.  
1 P.M. Hove up & went outside into Vella Gulf  
to hunt for sea-birds. Cruising throughout  
the afternoon, but could not get  
close to the flocks. At 5/23 P.M. the  
engine was started and course set  
for the South end of Vella Lavella.  
We found at 6/50 P.M. that it was  
too dark to see the reefs at entrance  
of harbour, so stopped engine & stood  
off & on under sail all night.  
Light winds, fine & clear all night.
- Oct 18 Calm and light airs. Fine weather  
6/50 A.M. Started the engine and at  
8/6 " " arrived & anchored in Vaitasoli  
harbour in 11 fms. All collectors landed  
at once and returned at 6 P.M.  
The crew were away to get fresh meat.  
Vessel pumped out daily as required.



## Yacht "France"

- Oct 19 Calm, fine & clear. Bar. 30.17 8 A.M.  
 Mr Beck landed alone at 7 A.M.  
 crew salting the meat which they brought back yesterday.  
 9/15 A.M. Hove up anchor & proceeded out under engine power, steering a course towards Ronongo Id.  
 12/15 P.M. Arrived and anchored at Kumbokota in 7 fms water.  
 Collectors landed at once.  
 All on board by 6 P.M. Fine during night.
- Oct 20 Calm, cloudy & light showers.  
 Collectors landed at 7 A.M. and crew got a load of fresh water from a stream close by the ship.  
 All on board by 5/30 P.M. Heavy rain during the night.
- Oct 21 Calm & light airs. Fine & clear.  
 Collectors landed at 7 A.M.  
 Mr Beck did not land to day as he was very sick yesterday and all night.  
 Mr. Hamlin did not get back till 8 P.M., having lost his way in the woods after sun set.
- Oct 22 Calm & light airs. Fine & clear  
 Collectors, except Mr Beck who is still sick, landed at 7 A.M.  
 crew variously employed. All on board by 6 P.M. Some heavy showers during the afternoon, fine night.
- Oct 23 Calm & light variable airs. Fine & clear.  
 A light SE breeze during afternoon, Sabbath day observed. Fine night.  
 Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

- Oct 24 Calm, fine & clear.  
 Collectors landed at 7 A.M. crew employed scraping the jib boom. Got some fine wood.  
 All on board by 5.30 P.M.  
 Some showers in afternoon. Fine night.
- Oct 25 Calm, light airs, fine & clear  
 Collectors landed at 7 A.M.  
 Heavy rain & showers over the land from 9 A.M. till sun set.  
 The Government launch arrived during afternoon & left again at 3 P.M.  
 The collectors returned at 6 P.M. with the exception of Mr Hamlin who lost the track and did not get on board till 8.30 P.M.
- Oct 26 Light variable breeze, overcast and showers.  
 6 A.M. Hove up & proceeded along the coast under engine power. Steering for Haravo Island.  
 10/55 A.M. Arrived and anchored in Haravo harbour in 14 fms.  
 Collectors landed at once & returned 6 P.M.  
 Squally with light showers till midnight.
- Oct 27 Fresh squalls and heavy rain, from SE in early morning. Bar. 30.04 8 A.M.  
 Collectors landed at 7 A.M. and returned at 6 P.M.  
 Fine during the night.
- Oct 28 Overcast and heavy rain till noon  
 Collectors landed at 1 P.M.  
 crew getting firewood.  
 All on board by 6 P.M.  
 Light showers during the night.  
 Vessel pumped out daily as required.



## Yacht "France"

Oct 29 Light SE breeze; cloudy sky.  
6.40 A.M. Hove up and proceeded out  
under engine, set sail when outside,  
but vessel only just keeping full on  
her course. 1 P.M. Hauled down sails.  
12.47 Arrived and anchored in Gizo  
harbour.

9.30 P.M. The "Mataram" arrived.

Oct 30 Light breeze and fine weather.  
Boats engaged in going to and from  
the steamer with mails etc.  
The "Mataram" left at 5.30 for Laie.  
A very heavy squall struck us at  
8 P.M., carried away the awning  
and vessel dragged her anchor.  
Let go the star T and she brought  
up close inshore in 8 fms.

Oct 31 Light breeze and fine weather.  
Hove up the anchors and shifted  
the vessel out to her original place.  
crew variously employed about the  
decks.  
Heavy rain in the afternoon and  
squally after sun set.

Nov 1<sup>st</sup> Overcast and cloudy sky.  
The "Mataram" arrived at daylight and  
sailed again at 11 A.M.  
Heavy rain & showers in afternoon  
and night.

Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> Light SE breeze & fine weather.  
All hands employed getting stores  
on board.

Line during the night.

Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

Nov 3 Light airs and calms. Fine weather  
11/15 A.M. Hove up & proceeded out, set all  
sail at 11/30 & stopped the engine.  
Variable winds and passing showers.  
Mr Paulson came along side in his  
launch in the afternoon and borrowed  
a tin of Petrol.

3/33 P.M. Started up the engine and  
steered for Bononga Id.

6/20 P.M. Arrived and anchored at  
Kumbokota on the north side of Inijaru Id.  
in 16 fms. Bottom very uneven, 21 fms aft.  
calm and fine all night.

Nov 4 7/5 A.M. Hove up and proceeded out  
under engine power. Steering along the  
coast of Kavarao.

8/50 A.M. Set all sail and stopped the engine.  
11/17 A.M. Started the engine again and  
at 11/25 A.M. Arrived and anchored at  
Bagga Id. close to Binekin Id. 16 fms.  
Collectors landed at once.  
All on board by 6 P.M. Squally and very  
heavy rain till midnight.

Nov 5 Calm and light airs. Fine & clear  
collectors landed at 7.30 A.M.  
crew variously employed about the  
decks. All returned to the ship by 5 P.M.  
Line during the night.

Nov 6 Light E by breeze, fine & clear.  
Sabbath day observed.  
Line during the night.

Vessel pumped out daily as required.



## Yacht "France"

- Nov 7 Light Ely breeze, fine & cloudy Bar <sup>8 A.M.</sup> 29.98  
Collectors landed at 7.15 A.M., returned at 11.30  
noon Hove up and proceeded under  
engine power towards Vella Lavella Id.  
12/45 P.M. Arrived and anchored at Nyanga  
in 12 fms. Mr Beck and boat landed  
at once. All on board by 6 P.M.  
Fine during the night.
- Nov 8 Dull, overcast and light rain Bar <sup>8 A.M.</sup> 29.95  
Collectors landed in afternoon.  
All on board by 6 P.M.
- Nov 9 Light variable airs, cloudy but fine.  
Mr Richards & Hicks left in the small  
boat to go up the river and camp.  
Mr Beck, Doctor & David collecting  
local district, returned at 6 P.M. except  
David who got lost and got on board  
at 8 P.M. Fine during the night.  
Mr Hamlin laid up with a sore foot.
- Nov 10 Similar weather conditions to yesterday  
Doctor landed for collecting at 7 A.M.  
Mr Beck & Hamlin on board.  
Brew employed repairing sails  
All on board by 6 P.M.
- Nov 11 Light airs and calm. Overcast & cloudy sky  
Mr Beck & Doctor landed at 6.30 A.M.  
Brew employed repairing sails & awnings.  
All on board by 6 P.M.  
Mr Hamlin still laid up with sore foot.
- Nov 12 Light airs, dull & cloudy but fine Bar <sup>8 A.M.</sup> 29.99  
Mr Beck landed for collecting at 6.30 A.M.  
Doctor skinning birds from yesterday.  
Very heavy rain started at 9 A.M. and  
continued without intermission till 5 P.M.  
Mr Beck returned at 1 P.M. Fine night.

Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

- Nov 13 Calm and light airs in early A.M.  
Light & ly winds and fine weather all  
day. Sabbath day observed
- Nov 14 Light to moderate & ly winds and  
fine, clear weather. Collectors landed  
for a few hours at head of bay.  
12/10 P.M. Hove up and proceeded out  
under engine power, passed through  
the passage between Tuovile Id and  
main land. Strong tides here and much  
reef which is not shown on chart.  
Steering a course along the coast,  
which is much different from chart.  
2/45 P.M. Arrived at Mundi Mundi  
and anchored in 15 fms. Mr B. landed.  
Fine and calm during the night.
- Nov 15 Calm, fine & clear in morning, showers  
in afternoon.  
Collectors landed at 7 A.M. Brew  
employed repairing awnings and  
various jobs.  
All on board by 6 P.M. Fine night.
- Nov 16 Dull and overcast. Variable breeze.  
Doctor, Hamlin and Hicks landed  
for collecting at 7 A.M. Mr Beck & Richards  
remained on board skinning birds.  
Heavy rain started at 1.5 A.M. and  
increased to deluge in afternoon.  
The plantation near the anchorage  
became flooded and also the river  
ran so strong that the current at  
the ship was more than three knots.  
Much debris coming out on the harbour.  
Gave vessel 15 fms more chain.  
Collectors returned at 5 P.M., all very wet.  
Intermittent showers during the night.  
Vessel pumped out daily as required.



## Yacht "France"

- Nov 17 Light variable airs and calm. Fine.  
 5/30 A.M. Crew getting ready for departure  
 6/18 " " Hove up & and proceeded out  
 under engine power. At 7/25 A.M. a  
 light breeze off the land, set all sail and  
 stopped the engine.  
 9/0. Started engine again and steered  
 for Worumbari Bay, we went in and  
 cruised round but could not find  
 less than 20 fms to anchor in, so  
 headed out again and at 9/55 stopped the  
 engine and with all sail set steered for  
 Choiseul Island, wind light & variable.  
 Very hot all afternoon and vessel  
 making very little headway.  
 A light Easterly breeze all night.
- Nov 18 Calm and light airs, smooth sea.  
 6/0 A.M. Started the engine and ran till  
 10/40 when we stopped and Mr Rich  
 went away in small boat after sea birds.  
 11/4 A.M. Mr B returned and started engine  
 again, steering for north end of Choiseul.  
 3/5 P.M. Arrived and anchored at  
 Moli Island, Choiseul, in 9 fms.  
 Collectors landed at once and returned  
 at 6 P.M. Fine during the night.
- Nov 19 Calm and variable airs in forenoon.  
 Collectors landed at 6.30 A.M. Fine weather  
 A moderate S.W. breeze in afternoon and  
 moderate sea and swell coming in  
 over reef. All on board by 4 P.M.  
 Fine during night, vessel rolling.
- Nov 20 Dull and cloudy weather. Light var breeze  
 The swell has increased since yesterday  
 Vessel rolling heavily at times  
 11 P.M. Hove up and shifted into more (contin)  
 Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

- (continued)
- Nov 20 sheltered position behind Moli Island.  
 Anchored in 8 fms and vessel lying  
 quietly. Heavy showers from midnight
- Nov 21 Dull, overcast and passing heavy  
 showers. Bar 8 A.M. 29.95  
 Collectors landed at 6.30 A.M. with exception  
 of Richards, who has a sore leg.  
 All on board by 6 P.M.  
 Showers during the night.
- Nov 22 Moderate S.W. breeze, cloudy sky.  
 Collectors landed at 7 A.M. Richards & Hicks  
 remained on board. Got the small boat  
 on deck for caulking and painting  
 All on board by 6 P.M. Fine all night.
- Nov 23 Light breeze and calms. Fine & clear.  
 Collectors landed at 7 A.M. Richards & Hicks  
 on board. Crew variously employed.  
 All on board by 6 P.M. Showers at night
- Nov 24 Moderate W. breeze all forenoon, falling  
 light in afternoon.  
 "Thanks giving day" so no collecting done.  
 Crew given the day off.  
 A fresh S.W. breeze with very heavy rain  
 and much lightning from 8 P.M. to 10.
- Nov 25 Calm and light airs.  
 7.30 A.M. Hove up & and proceeded along the  
 coast under engine power, keeping close in.  
 9.50 A.M. Arrived and anchored in Choiseul Bay  
 in 11 fms. Collectors, except Richards, landed at once.  
 All returned on board by 6 P.M. Fine night.
- Nov 26 Moderate S.W. wind, fine & clear  
 Collectors landed in big boat to go to head  
 of river. All returned by 6 P.M.  
 Fine during the night.  
 Vessel pumped out daily as required.



## Yacht "Lance"

- Nov 27. Moderate SW breeze, fine & clear. Sabbath day observed.
- Nov 28. SW breeze all day. Fine, cloudy afternoon. Collectors landed at 6.30 A.M. Two went up the river & two in from plantation. Mr Richards remains on board, leg not better yet. Filled up the fresh water tank from shore tanks, with crew, all day job. Collectors returned 5.30 P.M. Fine night.
- Nov 29. Moderate SW breeze, fine & clear. 8/A.M. Hove up anchor and proceeded down Bay to Redman Id and anchored again for till 11 A.M. Collectors ashore on Island & Reef. On their return, hove up & proceeded out under engine power. Strong tide rips in Bourganville Straits, breeze moderate to fresh from SSW. 1/15 Stopped engine. 3/15 to 5/30 P.M. Using engine intermittently, trying to make the Cuma Atoll to get anchorage for the night. Engine giving too much trouble to be sure of entering the reef, so abandoned the attempt and put out into the Straits and lay off and on under sail all night. Tides and tide rips very strong, making position keeping a difficulty. Some showers.
- Nov 30. Cyprian Bridge Island bearing West 5 miles at day light, steered for it, with SSW breeze. Tried the engine when close in and found we could run it for a short time. The circulating pump is out of order. 11/A.M. Arrived and anchored in passage between Sauro Id and Sauro Id (North Bay) in 5 fms. The tides run very strongly. Collectors landed at noon except Richards & Hicks, who are overhauling the pump. All on board by 6 P.M. Fine during the night.

Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "Lance"

- Dec 1. Moderate S by breeze, fine & clear. Collectors landed at 6.30 A.M. except Richards. Crew variously employed about decks. All on board by 6 P.M. Fine night.
- Dec 2. Moderate SW breeze, fine & cloudy. 8/5 Hove up & and proceeded through passage, under engine power, and round East Cope. 10/30 A.M. Arrived and anchored in Sinacora Bay in 21 fms water. Collectors landed at noon. All on board by 6 P.M.
- Dec 3. Light S by to SW breeze, fine & clear. Collectors landed at 6.30 P.M. Painted the big boat inside and out. All on board by 5.30 P.M.
- Dec 4. Light variable breeze in forenoon. SW'y in afternoon, fine & clear. We all went ashore and dined with Mr Pinnoch. Sabbath day observed.
- Dec 5. Balm, fine and clear weather. 8/55. Hove up & and proceeded out under engine power. 6/50 Stopped the engine and set all sail. 8/5 A.M. Found that the current was taking up to the Northward so started the engine again and with wind from the SSB, steered for Mono or Treasury Id. Wind steady all the afternoon and at sunset we were close in to the Island at Toloko Pt, 7.46 P.M. Too dark to go any closer in to the harbour, so T in 15 fms between Stirling & Mono Is. Fine night.

Vessel pumped out daily as required.



## Yacht "France"

- Dec 6 Light SE breeze, fine & clear Bar 30.05  
Mr Beck landed at 6<sup>15</sup> A.M. other collection later. Painted the big boat, 2<sup>nd</sup> coat.  
All on board by 6 P.M. Fine night.
- Dec 7 Light to moderate ESE wind, fine & clear.  
Collectors landed at 7 A.M. Mr Beck remains on board.  
Got fresh water from river.  
Collectors returned at 6 P.M.  
7<sup>45</sup> P.M. Hove up & proceeded through passage between Islands under engine power. Set all sail and stopped engine at 9<sup>25</sup> P.M. A light Eastly breeze, vessel making about 2 knots.
- Dec 8 Similar weather conditions continue all night and at day light found the vessel had been set to the Westward. Staring for the Shortland group all morning.  
At 1 P.M. we arrived and anchored at a small unnamed island and sand-cay which lies West 11 miles of Mahakona Pt, Shortland Island, in 17 fms. water.  
Mr Beck & Richards landed at once.  
All on board by 6 P.M. A fine night.
- Dec 9 Light S'y breeze, fine & clear.  
Hove up & at 5<sup>55</sup> A.M. & proceeded under engine power towards two small un. named islands about 4 miles to the Eastward (This group we name the Whitney Islands, see bird labels) Arrived and anchored at 7<sup>25</sup> A.M. in 15 fms. Mr Beck & Richards landed at once, crew attending with big boat.  
1 P.M. Hove up & proceeded to an outlying island of the Shortland group, at which we arrived & anchored at 3 P.M. in 10 fms.  
Mr Beck & Richards landed at once & returned at 6 P.M.  
Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

- Dec 10 Light SW breeze, fine & clear.  
Collectors landed at the various islands at 6.30 A.M. All on board for dinner and away again in afternoon till sun set. A fine night.
- Dec 11 Light SW breeze, fine but cloudy.  
6<sup>25</sup> Hove up & proceeded under engine power along the coast of Shortland Island. Set all sail to help, wind only light all morning.  
12<sup>55</sup> P.M. Arrived and anchored in Faisi harbour in 17 fms.  
S.S. "Mataram" came in at 4 P.M. with the mails. A fine night.
- Dec 12 Light variable wind, dull and overcast, showers during fore-noon, but fine later. Both ships boats attending at post. office and mail steamer all day. She sailed at 6 P.M.
- Dec 13 Balm and fine weather.  
Mr Richards & Hamlin landed for collecting at 7 A.M. Doctor skinning and painting birds. Mr Beck at B.P.'s store entering cargo from Sydney. Collectors returned at 5 P.M.
- Dec 14 Balm, fine and clear.  
Doctor, Richards & Hamlin landed for collecting at 7 A.M. Mr Beck at store. Painted the vessel round outside.  
Collectors returned at 3<sup>30</sup> P.M.  
The Government Officer visited the ship in the afternoon.
- Dec 15 balm, dull & overcast sky. Bar 30.02/8 A.M.  
Doctor, Hamlin, Richards & Hicks landed at 7 A.M.  
Mr Beck away with small boat collecting.  
All on board by 6 P.M.  
Vessel pumped out daily as required



## Yacht "France"

Dec 16 balm and fine clear weather.

Dr Droune, Richards & Hamlin landed at head of the harbour, a bad place so the hunters reported on return. Filled up with fresh water in the afternoon, also stores from Sydney. All on board by sun down. A fine night.

Dec 17 Overcast and dull, light showers.

Father Schank boarded as passenger.

8/40 A.M. Hove up & and proceeded out under engine power, steering a course towards the South end of Bougainville. Heavy rain showers and variable wind. Keeping close in along the coast.

At 6/35 P.M. we decided to anchor for the night as we were passing inside the reefs, so stood in to the shore and let go in 17 fms. A heavy swell sets in to the shore. A fine night.

Dec 18 Hove up & at 6/30 A.M. and proceeded along the coast with engine.

Fine clear weather, but no wind to sail.

At 12/20 P.M. we arrived and anchored at Kieta opposite the Government wharf. The doctor boarded at once and cleared the vessel, delivered the mails.

A very heavy rain shower in the afternoon. Light rain at night.

Dec 19 balm, fine and clear in forenoon, heavy rain showers in afternoon with a sharp squall from over the land. George & I started making a new awning. Collectors awaiting a permit to carry fire arms from Rabul. A fine night.

Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

Dec 20 balm and light variable airs, fine. collectors still waiting permit.

On this day, after a conference of all the party and myself, it was decided to proceed to Rabul to have the vessel put on the slip and get her caulked and repaired.

Showers in late afternoon & lightning.

Dec 21 balm, fine and clear in forenoon. George employed on awning.

The Government District Officer visited the ship in the afternoon.

No permit arrived yet, so no collecting. A light shower in afternoon.

Dec 22 Dull, overcast and threatening rain. At 9 A.M. showers started and increased later to a heavy down-pour which continued, with intervals, during the remainder of the day.

The permit arrived in the afternoon and Mr Beck and the rest of party went ashore to see the D.C. about landing a party to go inland.

Dec 23 balm, fine and clear in morning. Showers in afternoon. collectors ashore getting stores etc for their stay in Bougainville. Inlet the mainsail. George making new awning. Fine during the night.

Dec 24 balm, fine & clear all day. A light shower in late afternoon. The "Marsina" arrived at 6.30 A.M. and sailed again for Sydney with the mail at 1.30 P.M. Some heavy showers during the night.

Vessel pumped out when required.



## Yacht "France"

Dec 25 Christmas Day.  
balm and light variable airs in afternoon.  
no work this day. The Port Doctor visited  
the ship in afternoon, inspected the  
crew and granted health bill also  
brought the sailing permit which he  
altered to: crew, 3 white, which includes  
myself. A fine night.

Dec 26 Got ready for departure at daylight.  
Mr. Esson, a planter from Arawa came on  
board and we hove up at 9/25 A.M. and  
proceeded out under engine power and  
at 11/25 A.M. anchored in Arawa Bay in 10 fms.  
Dr Droune, Hamlin & Richards then landed  
with all their stores and also Mr Esson,  
they are going camping and collecting  
in the mountains.

2/40 P.M. Hove up anchor and proceeded  
through the reefs under engine and  
sail power. Very heavy rain at times and  
visibility poor. At 7.40 P.M. we were off  
Cape de Gras, distant about 3 miles, the  
engine was stopped and, with light breeze,  
we steered along the coast to the N.W.  
Breeze fell away at times and vessel not  
steering.

Dec 27 Breeze freshened up after mid-night and  
some heavy showers. At 3 A.M. the  
"Marwara" passed to port bound S.E.,  
we signalled our name. Wind fell  
light at 9 A.M. and so started the  
engine at 9/35 and steer for the  
north end of Bougainville. Wind came away  
from N.W. and freshened up, stopped engine  
at 11/6 A.M. Beating to windward to best advantage.  
In outer jib & reefed mainsail at 5 P.M. (continued)  
Vessel pumped out when required

## Yacht "France"

Dec 27 (continued) A sharp squall at 10 P.M. carried  
away the inner jib, the fore-sail was  
also split while trying to reef it.  
Kept her along under mainsail & head sails

Dec 28 till daylight, we bent the best fore-sail  
& set it, also the mainsail (full).

Beating to best advantage towards  
the north end of Buka. A rough  
sea, making vessel roll & pitch.

Making a lot of water and pump  
kept going almost all the time.

The North end of Buka was abeam at 7 P.M.

Wind N.W.W, fresh and dry squalls.

In outer jib and reefed fore sail  
and mainsail at midnight.

Dec 29 Wind and sea remain as last night.

Beating to windward in a rough  
and lumpy sea. Starboard fore-topmast  
backstay carried away in a squall.

Repaired as best we could. Wind continued  
strong all night.

Dec 30 Dull, overcast and squally.

Beating to windward against a rough  
sea and fresh N.W.W wind.

The S.S. "Marwara" passed at noon,  
while we were off the north coast of  
Buka. Wind falling light in afternoon,  
so shook out reefs and continued  
tack & tack.

Dec 31<sup>st</sup> balm and variable light airs all  
morning. Vessel not steering.

noon Position by observation Lat  $3^{\circ}58' S$ ,  $154^{\circ}46' E$

We found that a strong current had  
been setting us to the N.E. Light  
breeze started at noon, steering to South.

Vessel pumped out as required, she  
is making a lot of water.



# Yacht "France"

1928

- Jan 1<sup>st</sup> Cloudy and passing showers, with moderate breeze in forenoon. Increasing to fresh breeze and squally in afternoon.  
Noon Position Lat  $3^{\circ}51'S$ , Long  $154^{\circ}27'E$ .  
 Wind very variable and strong squalls in night, necessitating frequent shortening of sail. Beating to SW all the time.
- Jan 2 Dull, overcast and rain, wind variable in direction and force.  
Noon Position  $3^{\circ}17'S$ ,  $154^{\circ}47'E$ , a strong  $h\&e$  current had set us to this position. Sighted the Abgaris Is. (Goodman Id.) at 1 P.M. and also Table Id. later. Beating to the SW against variable winds and heavy rain showers.
- Jan 3 Similar weather conditions continue. Mr Beck away in small boat shooting sea birds all morning.  
Noon Position  $3^{\circ}38'S$ ,  $154^{\circ}43'E$ , the island (Goodman) in sight all day. Light SW breeze, but no rain to day.
- Jan 4 Balm and light variable southerly to SW by airs, fine and clear. Mr Beck away with small boat shooting birds.  
Noon Position  $3^{\circ}11'S$ ,  $154^{\circ}59'E$   
 Mr Beck away again in late afternoon.
- Jan 5 Weather conditions remain as yesterday  
Noon Position  $3^{\circ}4'S$ ,  $155^{\circ}1'E$   
 Mr Beck away after sea birds during the day.
- Jan 6 Balm and light airs, a light northerly breeze started in the forenoon.  
Noon Position Lat  $3^{\circ}18'S$ , Long  $154^{\circ}55'E$   
 Goodman Id. of the Abgaris group was a beam as 6 P.M., 12 miles distant; the light northerly continued all night. Vessel pumped out daily as required.

# Yacht "France"

- Jan 7<sup>th</sup> Light, but steady, northerly breeze. A moderate  $h\&e$  swell makes the vessel roll a lot. Steering south for Kissan Id.  
Noon Position  $3^{\circ}56\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $154^{\circ}51'E$   
 Wind freshened up at midnight and by
- Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 2 A.M. was blowing strong, reefed mainsail and outer jib. At daylight Buka Id. bore SE and Kissan to the northward. Wind falling light. Started the engine at 8 A.M. and ran it till 12/30 P.M. Steering for the south of New Ireland. Breeze fell away again, so started the engine at
- Jan 9 6/30 A.M. and steered for Cape St. George. <sup>stopped engine at 16 A.M.</sup> Breeze started again at sunrise from NW and rapidly increased to gale force. Close reefed fore sail and main sail and stood to the WSW. Vessel plunging and labouring in a rough cross sea. Making a lot of water in this weather. At noon we were 20 miles south of C. St. George. Shook out the reefs at noon, weather looking much better, but had to take them in again at 4 P.M. Steering in towards the coast of New Britain the wind easing up after 8 P.M.
- Jan 10 1 A.M. tacked ship to northward. The wind increased again at sunrise and ship diving into head sea. C. St. George in sight on weather bow at dawn, so we are making little headway. At noon the Cape was to windward of us, which gave us fairly smooth water, the wind falling light all afternoon and finally ceased. Started the engine at 5/30 P.M. and steered for Larisso Bay and anchored at 7/0 P.M. in Lavina Bay in 14 fms. A fine night, some strong puffs over the land. Vessel pumped out daily or hourly as required.



## Yacht "France"

Jan 11 A fine clear morning, the breeze coming over the hills shows a N.W. wind on the other side of the Island. At 7 A.M. Mr Beck took the big boat and the crew to the other side of the bay. Got some fire wood and fresh water during the day. Fresh N.W. wind, and strong puffs over the land. All on board by 5 P.M. A fine night.

Jan 12 Fine, cloudy weather. Wind N.W. in early morning, but shifted to S.E. and South during the fore-noon. Mr Beck away to the other side of the bay with big boat in fore-noon and again in afternoon, returned at 5 P.M., when we hove up and proceeded out in a heavy rain squall from over the land. Set all sail at 8 P.M. and stopped engine. Wind very variable all night, both in direction and force. Vessel being carried to the S.E. with the current.

Jan 13 Similar weather conditions to above, started the engine at 6 A.M. and steered for the land. Kept close in along the shore and round the bays to avoid the current. At 4/5 P.M. we arrived and anchored in Port Sulphur, a cove in Lamassa Bay, in 23 fms. Mr Beck landed for collecting. Very heavy rain at sun down, but fine later.

Jan 14 7 A.M. Hove up & proceeded along the coast close in for 13 miles, then steered across St George's Channel for C. Hazel, with all sail set. Engine gave trouble when nearing the cove and we were forced to anchor close in shore. A very bad T'age, strong tide rips. Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

Jan 15 Hove up at 6 A.M. and with engine running fairly well, proceeded towards Blanche Bay. Rain while entering. 10/6 Arrived and anchored in Rabaul, off the Pier in 7 fms.

Continuous rain all day. No one from shore came near the vessel all day. Quarantine flag flying all day. Drizzling rain all night, no wind.

Jan 16 Rain cleared off after sunrise. Pull all the sails up to dry. 9/30 A.M. Doctor & Customs Officer. boarded and after inspection granted pratique. At 2 P.M. we unhooked all sail and put them below. Afterwards gave the crew half day off. Regulation lights exhibited at sunset to sunrise.

Jan 17 A fine, cloudy morning, light breeze from N.W. and fresh in afternoon. Mr Beck & myself went to dock yard in morning and inspected a slip-way on the far side of the bay in afternoon. Manuel Peki A.B. went to hospital in evening to have his ankle attended to.

Jan 18 Balm and fine weather. Went to dock-yard again to try to make arrangements to have vessel lifted. Landed big boat at the yard in afternoon, to have her repaired. Fine during the night.

Jan 19 Balm and fine in early morning, N.W. breeze later. Crew variously employed. George making new awning. Strager A.B. laid up. Waiting for appointment to engage slip for lifting the vessel.

Pump sent ashore on Jan 18<sup>th</sup> to be repaired.



## Yacht "France"

Jan 20 calm & light variable air. Fine weather. Crew employed getting some of the iron deck fittings off, to send ashore for repairs or re-newal. George finishing the awning. Trager A.B. did not return on board after going ashore last night. ~~Line~~ Manuel returned from hospital to be treated on board.

Jan 21 calm & light air. Fine clear weather. Trager returned to vessel during the night. Various jobs being done about the deck by crew. No further information as to the slipping of the vessel for repairs. The crew were all granted liberty for the week end, except Manuel who remained on board.

Jan 22 calm, fine & clear. Very hot. Light var air in afternoon. Sabbath day observed.

Jan 23 calm, fine & clear in morning. S.S. "Morrina" arrived at day light from Sydney. Crew variously employed, George working on the sails. No arrangements made this day for hauling up the vessel. Fine during the night.

Jan 24 calm, fine & clear in early morning. Moderate N.W. breeze in afternoon. Met the owners of the slip on the far side of the harbour this morning; they will not allow their slip to be used for the "France" as they consider her to be too heavy.

This afternoon, after an interview with Mr. C. J. Handly, a cable was sent to Samarai, Papua, to find if accommodation would be available by February 4<sup>th</sup>.

The pump is on shore for repairs.

## Yacht "France"

Jan 25 calm, fine & clear in early morning. N.W. breeze in afternoon. Charles Phineas A.B. did not work all day and so forfeits one days pay. We received orders to shift the ship to an Tige 200 yds away from our present position as the harbour master considers we are in the fairway to the main wharf.

~~On~~ A stern riding light was exhibited all night. Jan 26 calm, fine & clear in early morning. Moderate N.W. breeze later. 6/53-6/57 shifted the vessel with the aid of B.P.'s launch to the position as stated yesterday. This morning it was decided to pay off and send to their port of engagement, certain members of the crew who requested that it should be done. Their names will be entered in this log-book at the time of their leaving the ship.

Jan 27 Similar weather conditions continue. Various jobs done about the decks done by the crew to day. Some repair work came back from engineers shop. Fine night.

Jan 28 calm, fine & clear in morning and afternoon. Bent the jibs and mainsail to day. At 9 P.M. on this day I was removed to hospital and underwent an operation for a stricture. I came out and returned on board on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 11 A.M. During this time the vessel remained at her anchorage in charge of Mr Beck. Various work was done by the crew. Vessel pumped out when required.



## Yacht "France"

Feb 7<sup>th</sup> Calm, light airs, fine & clear in morning, passing showers in afternoon 9 A.M. Took all the crew over to see Doctor and obtain clearance. Philip Teligattus, Age 20 years, was engaged this day as a member of the crew, under the following conditions; he is to receive £3 per month on joining and will continue on that rate while Hicks remains as Engineer. On his taking over from Hicks he will be increased to £8 per month, with an additional rise when he can prepare bird skins satisfactorily. Should he leave the vessel at any port by his own request he will have to pay his passage money from his wages.

5/30 P.M. The customs boarding officer came and cleared the ship. Mrs Beck left at this port to day.

5/40 P.M. Hove up and proceeded out under engine power, setting all sail when outside.

9/0 P.M. Cape Gazelle abm, stopped engine and with light land breeze steered a mid-channel course between New Britain and New Ireland.

Feb. 8 Light N.W. breeze in early morning, falling light later. 8/40 A.M. Started the engine 12/45<sup>P.M.</sup> Arrived and anchored in a small bay about 3 miles north of Cape Arckway. Big boat ashore for fresh water & wood. 5/45 P.M. Hove up & proceeded 6/20 P.M. stopped engine steering to pass about 2 miles off Cape Oxford (New Britain) Vessel pumped out when required.

## Yacht "France"

Feb 9 Wind fell light in early morning.

Started the engine at 7/20 A.M.  
noon Position Latitude 5° 37' S Long 152° 9 1/2' E  
Breeze came away from N.W. light at 9/45 P.M. so stopped the engine

Feb 10 Calm at sunrise, so started the engine at 6/30 A.M. and ran till 11/45 when it started to give trouble and Hicks repairing it.  
noon Position Latitude 6° 53' S Long 151° 41 1/2' E  
5/0 P.M. The engine fixed and running again 6/30 P.M. Wind came ahead, so stopped engine Light variable wind to midnight.

Feb 11 Moderate N.W. breeze from midnight to 4 A.M. Variable and rain showers at sunrise, started the engine at 6/10 A.M. The breeze now became more steady, from N.W., so stopped the engine at 9 A.M. Vessel making about 3 1/2 knots.  
noon Position 7° 43 1/2' S, 151° 40' E  
Breeze fell light and variable again at 3/30 P.M. so started the engine again and ran it till 7/45 P.M.  
N.W. to N.W. by light breeze till midnight.

Feb 12 Breeze freshened up after midnight and some strong squalls from N.W. with lightning and rain. Had to drop the mainsail in the heaviest of them.

4 A.M. Observed Jorrueny Id (Marshall Bennett group) on the port bow.

5/30 - 6/5 A.M. Ran the engine so that we could pass to windward of the Island.

Fresh N.W. wind all day, with one interval of variable breeze for half an hour. Lighted Normanby Id at sunset. Wind fell light at midnight giving just storage way. Vessel pumped out when required.



## Yacht "France"

- Feb 13 Started the engine at daylight and set a course for Hull Id. Engine giving trouble now & then. Moderate N.W. breeze all day.  
6/13 P.M. Anchored at Barry Id. in Lortescue Strait in 15 fms, thick rain. Squally from midnight.
- Feb 14 At 2 A.M. gave her 15 fms more chain. 6/25 A.M. Hove up & and proceeded through Lortescue Strait and then steered along the coast for Samari. 10/30 Arrived and anchored off the wharf. The doctor & customs officer boarded and granted pratique. Mr Beck & myself then went on shore to see about the slip.  
At 2/0 P.M. we hove up & proceeded over to Handley's slip at which place we arrived & anchored at 2/45. We immediately started landing all the gear from the hold, unbent the sails etc and took them to a shed alongside the slip. Fine during the night.
- Feb 15 Continued landing ship's gear and also ballast from fore hold with the assistance of 6 shore labour. Cleared up the hold in afternoon. Sticks at work taking down the engine. A vessel was taken up on the slip this afternoon and we must wait till she comes off.
- Feb 16 The crew scrubbed the ship round outside and afterwards did the paintwork inside.  
Vessel pumped out daily as required.

## Yacht "France"

- Feb 17 At 6 A.M. we hauled alongside the slip and after much delay owing to the vessel shearing about we got her on and were hauled up a bit and the shipwright got measurements of the blocks. The slip was then hauled up and the blocks fitted on it; afterwards it was sent down again and the vessel placed in position.  
At 6/30 P.M. work was stopped for the night.
- Feb 18 Started heaving the slip up at 7/30 A.M. Our crew painting the hold and the ship's side. The vessel high and dry at 3/30 P.M. All work then finished for the day.
- Feb 19 Sabbath day observed. Fine weather all day.
- Feb 20 Inspected the vessel's bottom, with the shipwright, and found that the fore foot needed caulking and new copper, also that a few pieces were needed in various places along the hull, but otherwise all was in good condition. The work was started at once.
- Feb 21 Repair work proceeding. Also on the engine, of which several parts have been sent ashore to the shop. Unshipped the propeller and got shaft ready for taking out.
- Feb 22 Repairs on copper work finished. Put ship in water again in afternoon and unshipped the rudder. Left her ready for hauling up again in morning.



## Yacht "France"

Feb 23 Loaded vessel on to the ship again at 7/30 A.M. and started to heave her up, all hands from ship assisting. Look out the shaft 3/30 P.M. Ship high and dry once more.

Feb 24 Waiting for a hapt. to come back from Lamari



## Yacht

Feb 23 I loaded her  
again at  
to leave her  
ship assist  
3/30 P.M. Ship  
more.

Feb 24 Waiting for  
from Lamas.



## Yacht

Feb 23 Loaded us  
again at 7  
to leave her  
ship assist  
3/30 P.M. Ship  
more.

Feb 24 Waiting for  
from Lamas



ROLLO HOWARD BECK  
PLANADA, MERCED COUNTY  
CALIFORNIA

December 5 1937

Dear Doctor Murphy;

Some years ago I entertained the thought that I might shortly write a few notes on happenings during a collecting trip to the South Seas. Some years have passed and the notes are no farther advanced. Seeing in the Annual Report of the Museum recently that you were engaged in work on Petrels and Oceans I thought it likely you would derive more profit from the log of the schooner France in the next few years than I would therefore I take pleasure in mailing to you the Captains log during the time I was aboard

When I finally get this fig orchard to bearing a decidedly better grade of figs than it has so far yielded I may really turn the old time thought into action and might ask for the loan of the logbook for a brief period.

Sincerely, *R. H. Beck*

"A larger proportion of high grade figs" might be a better way of expressing my yearly desires.

Mrs Beck joins in sending best wishes to yourself and family.



Rollo Howard Beck, Esq.  
Planada  
Merced County, California

Dear Mr. Beck:

It was very pleasant to receive this morning your note dated December 5 and the two log books of the 'France' which arrived by express a few minutes later. These are sure to be very interesting and I shall go through them with a fine toothed comb before I complete my manuscript on the petrels and albatrosses. The latter work is well under way though there is still a great deal to do.

Let me know whenever you would like to see the books again and I shall forward them promptly.

Only recently I returned from a voyage along the little-known Pacific coast of Colombia. I really learned a great deal, but for unending discomfort and the constant threat of disaster, it was probably the peer of some of your worst days at sea! I expected to have a 90-foot diesel cruiser, but she broke down and I had to make a voyage of more than a thousand miles against unceasing headwinds in a 38-foot gasoline launch. The ports were far apart, the charts poor, and the weather horrible, but we came through alive and with a fine lot of data. I'll send you a report on it in due course. Between us, you and I have now pretty well cleaned up the coast of South America.

With best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and Mrs. Beck, in which Mrs. Murphy would want to be included, I am

Yours sincerely,

RCM:RC















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